

A HISTORY

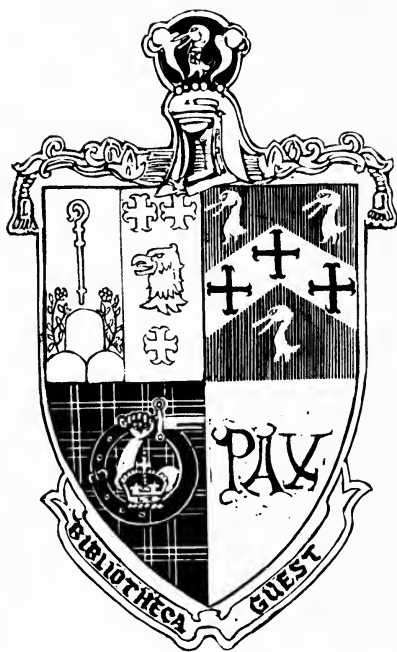
OF THE

ABBAY CHURCH OF MINSTER

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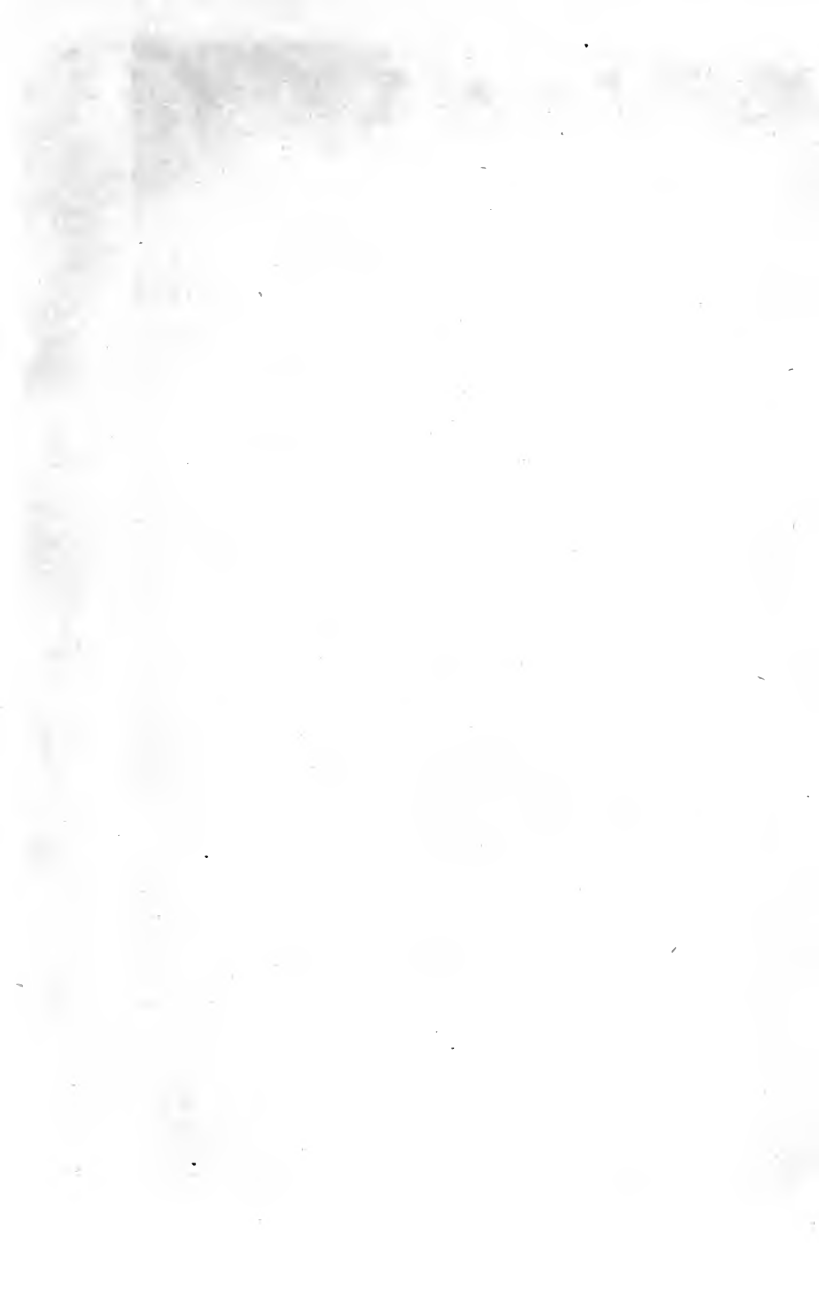
Rev. W. BRAMSTON, M.A.

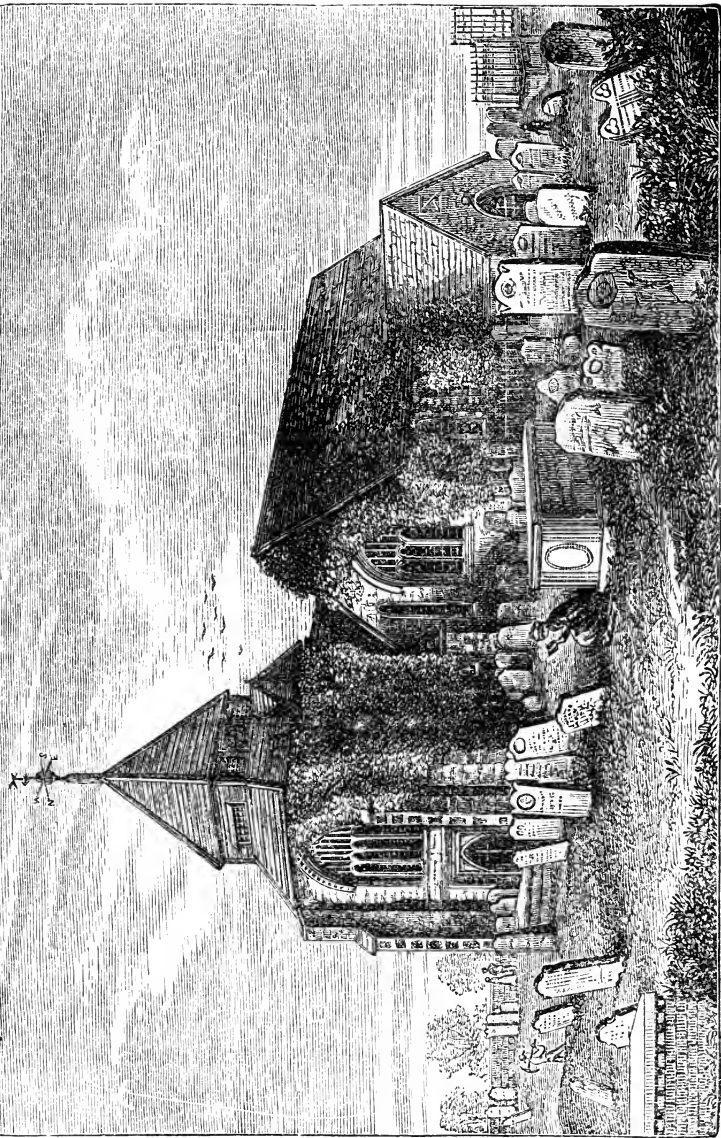
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THE ABBEY CHURCH OF MINSTER.

A HISTORY
OF THE
ABBNEY CHURCH OF MINSTER,
ISLE OF SHEPPEY, KENT,

WITH A DESCRIPTION OF THE MONUMENTS,
AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING TO
THIS ANCIENT PARISH.

BY THE
REV. W. BRAMSTON, M.A.,
VICAR OF MINSTER, AND RECTOR OF WARDEN, ISLE OF SHEPPEY, KENT.

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Dedication.

THIS LITTLE VOLUME IS DEDICATED (BY PERMISSION)

WITH THE GREATEST RESPECT

TO THE

MOST REVEREND

FREDERICK TEMPLE, D.D.,

The Lord Archbishop of Canterbury,

BY HIS MOST OBLIGED AND HUMBLE SERVANT

. WILLIAM BRAMSTON.

TO THE SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF SHEPPEY,
AND ALL THE MEN OF KENT INTERESTED
IN THEIR LITTLE ISLAND, AND ALL OTHER
READERS.

IN such a work as the present, the Editor rather than the Author has to request the partial judgment of all. It is almost impossible to put on record all the various views held on matters which are brought before you of very early origin. He has to peruse a mass of authorities, and form his judgment on them, contradictory as they sometimes are.

Let me give an instance. The editor of the *Builder*, commenting on the Abbey Gate House, stated that it was in the parish where St. Augustine baptized ten thousand persons in A.D. 597. Now at the last archæological meeting it was publicly stated that this baptism took place at Minster in *Thanet*. Let us notice, further, that the most reliable authorities state that this baptism took place in the *River Swale*. No such river exists near Minster in Thanet. To further confuse readers, historians who probably had never heard of the River Swale in Kent send St. Augustine to the Swale in Yorkshire, and record that this great baptism took place there. Later ones, who perceive that St. Augustine could not have taken such a journey, state that Paulinus baptized ten thousand persons in the River Swale in Yorkshire.

If the Editor were to give all the authorities on which he forms his judgment, this little work would extend to an unreasonable size, and would not effect the object that is in

view. The object is to interest, and it may be amuse, all lovers of Sheppey and her Abbey Church. If then, good reader, you consider that the view on any matters spoken of here be incorrect, judge the Author leniently; and if, learned reader, you hold the view taken to be untenable from evidence to which you have been able to obtain access, give the Editor the benefit of your opinion, and he will gladly alter in another edition, according to the evidence sent him, the matter on which you are able to speak with authority.

But any way, may we all desire that the noble edifice that has for one thousand two hundred and thirty-five years held worshippers of the MOST HIGH, and which has, at great cost and much self-denial, been restored to its pristine beauty, may long continue to hold devout and earnest worshippers, who in the long ages may join in spirit all the saints of GOD who have gone before them.

Thus, as Weever writes, "submitting myself and this work to thy learned and friendly censure, I take my leave."

Written at Strasburg in September, 1896.

It is right to acknowledge that many valuable works have been consulted; and extracts made from them have been incorporated into this History. We owe much valuable information to the following:

IRELAND'S PICTURESQUE VIEWS OF THE RIVER MEDWAY,
1793.

DR. J. HARRIS'S HISTORY OF KENT, 1719, FOL.

PHILIPOTT'S VILLARE CANTIANUM, 1659, FOL.

SEYMOUR'S TOPOGRAPHICAL HISTORICAL SURVEY OF THE
COUNTY OF KENT, 1776.

LAMBARDE'S PERAMBULATION OF KENT, 1826.

WEEVER'S ANCIENT FUNERAL MONUMENTS, 1631.

BOUTELL'S MONUMENTAL BRASSES, AND SLABS, 1847.

HASTED'S HISTORY OF KENT.

HAINES'S HISTORICAL MONUMENTAL BRASSES, 1861.

And other works,

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A HISTORY OF THE
ABBAY CHURCH OF MINSTER.

CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTORY.

Kent, in the Commentaries Cæsar writ,
Is term'd the civil'st place of all this isle:
Sweet is the country, beauteous, full of riches;
The people liberal, valiant, active, worthy.

SHAKESPEARE.

THE church is the principal feature in any place. Strangers naturally turn their footsteps thither. All men reverence it; all men find something to gratify them by visiting the church. Architects, antiquarians, historians, the literary, the refined, the polite, discover something in the church to charm or to soothe; and the residents of any parish where the church is an especial object of interest feel a just pride in their possession, are anxious that it should be preserved in its pristine beauty and grandeur, and are jealous when the hands of time work ravages on its fabric. Such a church is Minster Abbey Church. It is an object which experts would revel in, which critics would admire, which all would revere; it is an edifice where architects would find a master, and all men would discover an instructor in one branch or another. The people of the Island of Sheppey are poor; they are not

equal to the task of restoring their church; and for the reasons hereafter given they appeal to all lovers of beauty wheresoever they may be found. When we ramble in the pleasant walks of literature, we find allusions, frequent and forcible, to churches; and the writer rejoices when he can illuminate his pages with a description of a church such as Minster is. All lovers of the English classics will, we feel sure, lend a helping hand to this movement; for in vain must they have read Sir Walter Scott's fine descriptions of ancient buildings if they refuse—in vain must they have read of Dr. Johnson's reverence for churches if they allow this one to remain so neglected; yea, indeed all poets and writers who have written of the past have sung and have written in vain, if the people do not awake to their duties and their responsibilities to hand down privileges they themselves enjoy to generations remote. A fine old church in decay forces the candid mind to compare the present with the past. He looks at the old church, and thinks of those who reared it, and almost involuntarily utters an encomium, while he cannot but blush for the want of public spirit which his own contemporaries exhibit. Men are too willing to praise the present at the expense of the past. Now, many will extol the nineteenth century, and boast of its excellences; in many places such a boast may possibly be indulged in, but generally the honest man is obliged to hang his head when he beholds in ancient public edifices such marked excellence and pre-eminence. The higher culture of a nation is shown in its reverence for the beautiful. To allow ancient edifices to die a premature death is an argument that such people are devoid of this higher culture; and when, instead of restoring, you find stone-carving wilfully broken, and fine old monuments defaced by individuals who crave after an unenviable notoriety, cutting their names upon them, surely one must stand appalled, and exclaim, "*Quantum mutantur ab illis*," or in our own vernacular, "Surely times are changed for the worse." Our little book will show how these words, written in 1881, have borne fruit.

The history of a church of so early a foundation embraces periods of much interest in the history of England; and this is most true of the history of a Mother Church in the county of Kent. Let us, then, begin at the beginning.

THE BRITONS.

Some eighteen centuries ago Great Britain was inhabited by gross idolaters. The Britons were not only worshippers of false gods, but, as their historians assert, had as many and as extravagant ones as the Egyptians themselves. Andates, the Goddess of Victory, was one of their principal deities; but since the Druids never committed any of their mysteries to writing, it is no wonder that we know so little concerning their worship. The mistletoe that grows on the oak they looked upon as a most sacred thing and the greatest blessing bestowed on them by the gods. They believed in the immortality of the soul, and upon extraordinary emergencies practised human sacrifice. Most truly did they "sit in darkness."

THE FIRST MISSIONARY.

Though it is a hard matter to know the precise time, yet all agree that the gospel was preached in Great Britain soon after our Saviour's ascension. To decide the question to whom should be granted the title of the *first missionary* is as difficult. But Baronius, on the authority of Simeon Metaphrastes, says that St. Peter first preached to the Britons. Others say that it was Simon Zelotes; and the Grecian Kalendar tells us that this Apostle was crucified and buried here. The most current opinion for some time was that Joseph of Arimathea was the Apostle of the Britons, and came here A.D. 61. But all these traditions rest on insufficient grounds. Eusebius speaks of the dangers of the Apostles in preaching the gospel in most distant countries, and mentions Great Britain. It has been held that St. Paul was the *first missionary* to this country. In Rom. xv. 28 he writes that, after he had paid at Jerusalem the alms that the Gentiles had subscribed for the poor saints there, "I will come by you [Rome] into Spain." We have sufficient grounds to believe that there was a Christian Church planted in Britain very early, and even in the Apostles' time, and even by St. Paul himself. Eusebius tells us that the Apostles passed over into Νήσους Βριτάνικας—the British Isles. Theodoret, among the nations converted by the Apostles, expressly mentions the Britons. Jerome says that, after

having been in Spain, St. Paul preached the gospel to the Western parts. These testimonies are supported by an expression of Clement of Rome, who wrote before the end of the first century, and who relates that St. Paul preached righteousness through the whole world, and in so doing went to the utmost bounds of the West, by which the British Isles must be understood, for Catullus calls Britain *Ultimam occidentis insulam*. There are other authorities which we need not mention; and Tertullian, who wrote about A.D. 200, says that the cause of Christ was advanced in Gaul and Britain, and that Christ was solemnly worshipped by the inhabitants. Since, then, it is probable that St. Paul, the great Apostle to the Gentiles, was the first missionary, he would have visited England in the eight years between his first imprisonment at Rome and his return to Jerusalem. Dr. Harris thus writes: "I do not at all doubt but that we had the *open authoritative* profession of Christianity in Britain and in Kent before ever there was any such thing even in Rome itself." But at first there was little success. The Christian Church appears to have been small and humble.

THE FIRST CHRISTIAN KING.

Lucius, a British king, sent ambassadors, Elvanus and Medivimus, to the twelfth Bishop of Rome to desire him to send some missionaries. These two ambassadors were instructed, baptized, and consecrated, and sent home as missionary bishops. The King and the chief of the Britons were baptized, and the gospel flourished in Britain and spread far and wide. We cannot forget the multitude of British martyrs, of whom St. Alban was the first, who suffered during the dreadful persecution of Diocletian in the third century. The island abounded with churches, and we may believe the high lands of Sheppey were crowned with a house of God. At the Council of Arles, A.D. 314, there were three British bishops present.

The liturgy that was used in the British Church was the Gallican, which was derived probably from St. John, through Polycarp and Irenæus; and it is interesting to notice that at the Reformation the Reformers in the Common Prayer-Book of our Church really rendered back the forms of prayer,

which had been corrupted by Romish teaching, to a nearer conformity to our more ancient liturgies.

THE ANGLO-SAXONS.

A new page must be turned over now, since some five centuries have passed away. These conquerors were worshippers of the Sun, Moon, Tuisco, Woden, Thor, Friga, and Seator; and to them the days of the week were dedicated, and the names we now give to our seven week days still show us the worship of our ancestors. They arrived in the Isle of Thanet A.D. 449, and were received with joy. We know the stratagem by which the British King of Kent, Vortigern, was enticed to give Kent to the Saxon Hengist, and for one hundred and thirty years the land was ravaged by war. Little is known of the British Church during this period. When the Saxons arrived in England, they were all Pagans. And though we may believe the character and example of the British Christians invited them to practise their religion, we do not find that the conquered Britons acted as missionaries to any great extent to their Saxon conquerors. Their arrival overturned the ecclesiastical as well as civil government, and their barbarities spread such destruction through the island, that Christianity was confined to those mountainous districts where the Britons still retained their liberty. But Christianity was again introduced into England.

CONVERSION OF THE ANGLO-SAXONS.

St. Gregory, Bishop of Rome, in A.D. 597, sent Abbot Augustine with forty Benedictines to England. There is a beautiful letter of St. Gregory to the Abbot exhorting him to humility; and probably if he had possessed more of this salt of all Christian virtue, he might have succeeded in persuading the early Britons, who by ancient customs and ecclesiastical freedom were separated from the Roman Anglo-Saxon Church, to unite themselves to it, so as to form a whole with it. The anecdote of the meeting of the British Bishops with St. Augustine, the advice of the pious anchorite to them on the matter, and the treatment that they received from the Abbot, rests on good authority. It was not until fifty-six years had

passed away that all England was converted. And now monasteries and churches were founded.

THE CHURCH OF KENT.

The kingdom of Kent was the first of the seven kingdoms that was converted. The King Ethelbert had married a Christian woman, Bertha, daughter of Charibert, King of Paris; and her amiable and lovely character had softened the heart of the King towards her religion. It was decided that the missionaries should settle at Canterbury, the capital of Kent, and within a year the King Ethelbert was baptized. He was the first Christian king of Kent. On the conversion of the King Ethelbert the Saxons were so eager to embrace the gospel that the historians relate that St. Augustine in one day baptized ten thousand persons in the River Swale, which runs into the Thames, and is the south-west boundary of the Isle of Sheppey.

MINSTER ABBEY CHURCH.

The great King Ethelbert was succeeded by his son Eadbald, who died 640. He at first oppressed the Christians, but before the close of his reign became one himself. He was succeeded by Ercombert, whose Queen was Sexburga. Ercombert died in A.D. 664. And on the death of her husband, Queen Sexburga requested her son Egbert, King of Kent, to grant her lands in the Isle of Sheppey, where she founded a monastery or minster for seventy-seven nuns. She died in A.D. 670, and her daughter Ermenilda was the first abbess. For about two hundred years the hills of Sheppey sent out Christian help to other less privileged places.

THE DANES.

About the year A.D. 840 these seafaring people invaded Kent, and carried devastation wherever they went; Minster-in-Sheppey Abbey was burnt, and the nuns fled or were slain. Again and again they collected, but were, after some centuries of persecution, dispersed. And though we know little of their sorrows, dangers, persecutions—for in such troublous times little history can be written—still we can believe how the

villagers and farmers and inhabitants of Kent were distressed by their pitiless foes; and in this ravaging of the country we can believe how severely the Isles of Sheppey and Thanet must have suffered, for here the Danes not only made incursions and departed home with their spoil, but it was usual for them to make their winter quarters in these islands. But these people were at length, according to the policy of Alfred the Great, incorporated into the religious as well as civil government of the country. And they appear at length not to have been behindhand in enriching that Church which their ancestors had so often despoiled. But the day drew on when William of Normandy became the Conqueror of England; and Britons, Saxons, and Danes had all to bend to the prowess of the new invaders. After a few years, history again tells of another lover of Sheppey. William de Corbeuil, Archbishop of Canterbury from A.D. 1123 to A.D. 1139, loved the high lands of Sheppey, and again made its hills the joy of the island. He rebuilt the Church and Abbey. Portions of the present building were built at this period.

Now let us leave history, and pay a visit to the Island of Sheppey. Leaving the garrison and dockyard and pleasant esplanade of Sheerness, let us climb up the hills of Minster, and visit the Abbey Church, which stands some two hundred feet above the sea. It is conspicuous for many miles. We have seen it (for the day is clear) ever since we left New Brompton, and our road here shows us the Church from various points of view. How beautiful it looks as it rears its massive tower and short steeple to the sky! How the houses of the village cluster round it, and how the rich colours of the roofs and the varied tints of slate and brick delight the eye! Oh that artists knew the spot better! And that strong embattled gatehouse, how sombre and severe it looks standing in its strength on the height! Pause here a moment, and look around. Did you ever see so rich a view? You are looking over the Isle of Sheppey, the hills of Kent, the Nore, the Essex coast, the mouths of the Medway and Thames. What is that band of gold that meanders far away beneath our feet? That is the Swale of which we spoke; the land beyond is Kent—our county. Look at those rich farms embosomed in their trees and surrounded with the waving

corn, bowing so gracefully to the wind. But we are at the Church gate. Before we enter, look at the majestic tower. How massive its double buttresses! How beautiful in its perfect proportion is its door, and how noble the window! But how shamefully has it been neglected. See the belfry, semi-octagonal turret, clad with loving ivy, which seems to embrace it in its dejection, and to whisper words of loving cheer. We are at the south porch, and, now the door is open, can see the south door of the Church. It is transitional Norman; but has been covered with whitewash and plaster, and the pillars torn away. Let us enter. What a strange experience! There are two aisles—one thirty feet, the other twenty-six feet, wide. The aisle in which we stand seems to have no chancel. The chancel of the farther aisle is blocked up by a schoolroom that has been erected there. The whole building is full of high, ugly pews, and an insecure-looking west gallery has been erected.

The Church and its fine monuments call vividly to our recollection that graphic description found in *The Old Curiosity Shop*, by Charles Dickens. It may be that, living in Kent, he had himself visited the old Church, and had it in his thoughts when he wrote: "That solemn building, where the light, coming through sunken windows, seemed old and grey; and the air, redolent of earth and mould, seemed laden with decay purified by time of all its grosser particles, and sighed through arch and aisle, and clustered pillars, like the breath of ages gone! Here was the broken pavement, worn so long ago by pious feet, that time, stealing on the pilgrims' steps, had trodden out their track and left but crumbling stones. Here were the rotten beam, the sinking arch, the snapped and mouldering wall, the lowly trench of earth, the stately tomb on which no epitaph remained,—all,—marble, stone, iron, wood, and dust, one common monument of ruin. The best work and the worst, the plainest and richest, the stateliest and the least imposing—both of Heaven's work and Man's—all found one common level here, and told one common tale. . . . Here were effigies of warriors stretched upon their beds of stone with folded hands, cross-legged—those who had fought in the Holy Wars—girded with their swords, and cased in armour as they had lived." And then on ascending and standing on the turret top, little Nell breaks out into these

exclamations: "Oh! the glory of the sudden burst of light; the freshness of the fields, stretching away on every side and meeting the bright blue sky; the cattle grazing in the pasturage; the smoke that, coming from among the trees, seemed to rise upward from the green earth: the children yet at their gambols down below—all, everything, so beautiful and happy." This is a description of Minster, and the beauty of the view from its "ivy-mantled tower."

A correspondent has written telling me that he was induced by the above quotation to inquire among his friends of the truth of a floating rumour among us that Charles Dickens often came to Minster to visit Prospect Villa, where Mr. Crampton lived. This house is opposite the baker's at the foot of the hill. "I learn," writes Mr. Thomas Crampton,— "I learn that he visited Captain Johns, who lived there, and was well known at Minster. He was often accompanied, I find, by Samuel Lover; and my friend, Mrs. Corbishley, when a little girl, daughter of Mr. Burford, the great churchwarden, was often carried through the churchyard pick-a-back by Charles Dickens." This is a very interesting fact to all who appreciate the humour and pathos of this great author.

There needs only to be told, to complete the scene, the additional beauty of the open ocean, with the crowds of steamers, ships, and fishing-boats travelling in the highway of the world; and the meandering, sometimes golden, sometimes shining silvern waters of the River Swale.

CHAPTER II.

THE ISLE OF SHEPPEY.

THE island was called by Ptolemy, Toliatis. The Saxons called it Sceapige, or Ovinia—that is, the Island of Sheep. So called, perhaps, from its being the place where the first sheep were kept which were brought to Britain. It is probable they were first brought here from abroad; for Cæsar makes no mention of any sheep being in Britain in his time, though he reckons up their other quadrupeds. The cliffs are about six miles in length, the highest of which is above the village of Minster. The prospects are very pleasing and extensive on every side.

Mr. Weever says: “This little island contains some twenty miles in compass.” It measures now upwards of thirty miles. It is about thirteen miles in length, and six at its greatest breadth. The most fertile as well as the pleasantest part of this island is in the neighbourhood of Minster, which is elevated in its situation, rich in verdure, and fruitful in corn. The many noble and extensive views from this spot, particularly towards the Channel to the north-east, and the Nore to the westward, with the agreeable rides in its vicinity, would render it no unpleasant retreat for the summer months.

THE RIVER SWALE.

The water which flows between the island and the mainland is called the Swale, and the two extremities of it the East and West Swale. This water seems formerly to have been accounted part of the River Thames, and to have been the usual (as being the safest) passage for the shipping between London and the North Foreland; accordingly Sandwich is frequently styled by our ancient historians, Lundenidre, or

the Thames' mouth, being the name given to it by the Saxons; and the town of Milton is said by them to stand on the south bank of the Thames. Leland in particular says, in his *Itinerary*, that the town stands on an arm of the Tamise; and he speaks of the point against Queenborough entering into the main Thames.

FROM CAMDEN'S "BRITANNIA."

"Nunc Medweagus lætior et latior, crispantibus undis spectatu amœnissimus, fœcundos agros subluit, donec *Schepey* Insulæ, objectu divisus: (quam Ptol: *Toliatin* esse suspicamur) duobus in Tamisis æstuarium ostiis infertur, quorum occidentale *Westwale*, orientale quod *Sheppeiam* à continenti abscidisse videtur *Eastwale* dicitur. Hæc ab ovibus quarum greges numerosos pascit, *Shepey* id est *Ovium Insula* a majoribus nostris dicta, frugum ubertate singulari, sed sylvis indiga, xxi milliaria in ambitu colligit. Ad littus septentrionale monasteriolum habuit, sub quo nuper Brabantus quidam è saxis in littore repertis bitumen et calcanthum fornacibus excoquere cœpit. Castellum ad occasum pretendit elegantissimum et munitissimum quod Rex Edwardus III. posuit et Burgum adjunxit, ad ortum *Shurland* sedet, nunc Philippi *Herberti* filii secundogeniti Henrici Comitis *Pembrochiæ*,* quem uno eodemque die Baronem *Herbert de Shurland et Montis Gomerici Comitum* Rex Jacobus creavit."

Lord Dacre's widow was created, by letters patent, September 6, 1680, for her life Countess of Sheppey.

FOSSILS.

The cliffs produce, besides pyrites, or copperas stones, in their bowels, so great a variety of fossils, both native and extraneous, as are hardly to be paralleled, in a like space of ground, anywhere. These, the clay being continually washed away by the tide, are left exposed on the beach, and are usually picked up by the copperas-gatherers to sell to the curious; but those found here have been so much impregnated with pyritical matter that after some time the salts thereof shoot, and entirely destroy them.

* Nunc *Pembrochiæ*.

CURIOUS PLANTS.

The curious investigator of natural history, who travels into this island, will undoubtedly receive a further pleasure in the observations he will continually be induced to make on the variety of curious plants which he will find growing over the whole face of it. A great number of marine plants grow in the salt marshes. Hasted gives a list of forty-one rare and curious plants.

CHAPTER III.

MINSTER.

MINSTER is the principal parish of the island, and is by far the largest. It contains a church, which no antiquary will neglect to visit. It is seen from almost any part of the island, and is very lofty and spacious. It is on an eminence adjoining the sea, whence it is very conspicuous. The name Minster is contracted from "Monasterium," whence this town, as Dr. Harris calls it, has its appellation, and may challenge the third place among our English nunneries. For Sexburga, in the year A.D. 664, erected a religious house at this place, and liberally endowed it for the sustentation of veiled virgins. The first nunnery was at Lyminge by Ethelburga, the second at Folkestone by Eanswith, daughter of Eadbald, King of Kent.

"In this little island," writes Mr. Weever, 1631, "are the remains of a ruinous little monastery, now called Minster, built by Sexburga, the wife of Ercombert, King of Kent, A.D. 710 [error, between 664-673], wherein she placed nuns, and which was valued at the fatal period of all such foundations at £129 7s. 10d. per annum. Some part of it is now converted into a parish church, in which are divers funeral monuments, which have been removed, as I conceive, out of the chapel adjoining, some of which make a show of wondrous great antiquity."

"Anent the antiquity of our Minster Church versus St. Martin's at Canterbury, we have to consider. St. Martin's has the misfortune of being too old. Queen Bertha is said to have received permission from Ethelbert to use this [then an old Pagan or British temple] for herself and Christian attendants. Naturally it became the first building in which St. Augustine and his fellow-missionaries preached. But our Minster was specially founded and built as a Christian church." Of course

few vestiges of the original building have remained ; but there are the Saxon walls, and partial remains of the windows.

The Saxon church was the north aisle, and the middle wall was the outer wall of the original church. You can see in the middle wall an opening left partly unfilled. This is a Saxon window. There were four originally. The other on the middle wall has been filled in, for the wall has to bear a heavy roof of lead. Those in the north wall have been replaced by windows of the fifteenth century, which would give more light ; but they do not take the place of the Saxon ones. If, then, you go to the exterior, you can easily see a portion of these two Saxon windows, formed as they are in the rudest style by Roman tiles in double rows placed in a circular way so as to form a heading. The architect, Mr. Ewan Christian, closely examined those in the middle wall, and certified that since their erection they have endured the ravages of fire.*

In 1489 there was a chapel, dedicated to St. John the Baptist, situated within the cemetery of Minster-in-Sheppey, of which Weever speaks in his day (1630). The Church of Minster seems to have been part of the endowment of the monastery here at the first foundation of it, the cure of it being esteemed as a *donative*, in which state it continued till, in pursuance of Act 27 King Henry VIII., it came into the King's hands, where it remained till the King granted the Rectory, and also the advowson of the Church, to Sir Thomas Cheyne. Lord Cheyne alienated the Rectory with the advowson of this Church to Robert Livesey, Esq., in whose descendants it continued some time afterwards, till at length

* In A.D. 832 "there came the heathen people, and ravaged all Escapaie (Sheppey), and they had no mercy for any man." In A.D. 851, "third year of King Alfred, the Pagans wintered in the isle called Scheapieg (Sheppey), which means Sheep Isle. It is situated in the River Thames between Essex and Kent; but it is nearer to Kent than to Essex. A very beautiful monastery has been built on it" (*Asser's Annals of the Exploits of Alfred*). In A.D. 1016: "Then King Edmund went into Kent, and the (Danish) army fled with horses into Sheppey, and the King slew as many as he could come upon." In A.D. 1052: "And some of the ships went about Sheppey, and did much harm there, and went thence to Milton, and completely burnt it" (spelt Middletune in the Chronicle). These are extracts from the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, and the latter extract refers to the ships of Harold, son of Earl Godwin, in the war against Edward the Confessor.—*Sheppey Church Magazine*, Vol. VII., August, 1890. Kindly sent to the Editor by Mr. W. L. Walter.

it was sold to William Gore, Esq., who died possessed of the Rectory impropriate, with the advowson of the Church, on July 29, 1768. He died without issue, and by his last will devised it to his relative Robert Mitchell, Esq. It afterwards came into the possession of Major Hopson. The Ecclesiastical Commissioners now hold the Rectorial Tithes, while the advowson is held by the Church Patronage Society.

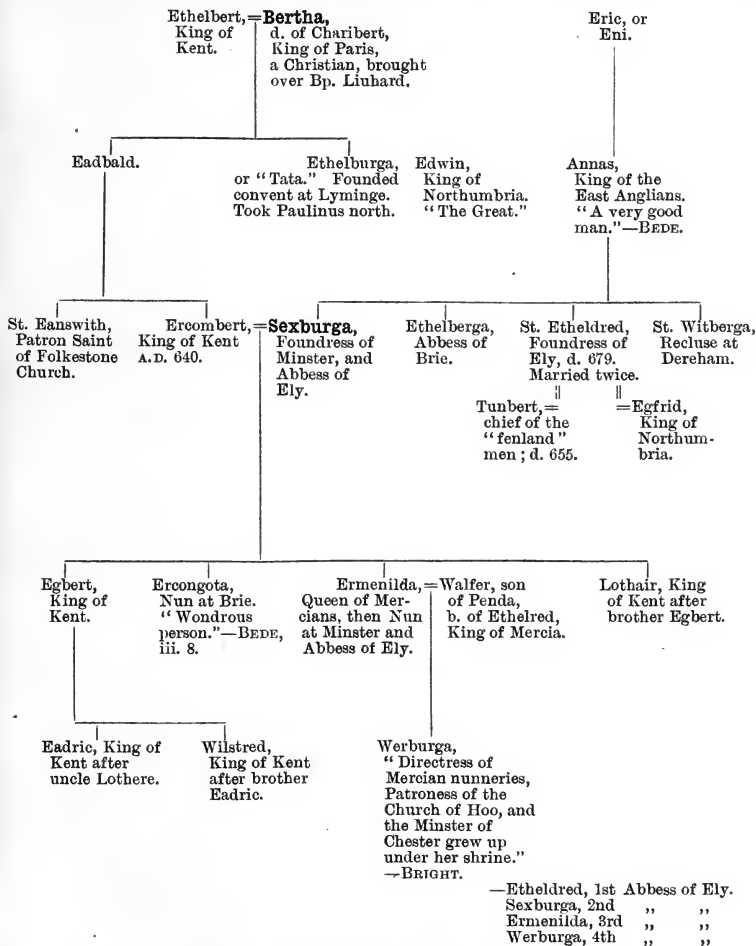
CHAPTER IV.

SAINT AND QUEEN SEXBURGA.

NOW a few words about the foundress, Saint and Queen Sexburga. Her father, Annas, was one of the most illustrious princes of East Anglia. He died in A.D. 654, leaving issue two sons and three daughters, of the latter of whom Sexburga was the eldest. She married Ercombert about A.D. 649, and had by him two sons, Egbert and Lothair, successively kings of Kent, and two daughters, of whom Ermenilda, when widow of Walfer, King of Mercia, who died A.D. 675, retired to the Monastery of Minster (of which her mother was then Abbess), and succeeded her in that office. King Ercombert died A.D. 664, and King Egbert in 673. The monastery must have been founded between these dates.

Sexburga, then Queen Dowager, widow of Ercombert, most probably in A.D. 664 or 665, having obtained lands in this island from her son, King Egbert, founded a monastery here, which she finished, and got well endowed for seventy-seven nuns of the Order of St. Benedict, whom she placed in it, King Egbert himself adding several lands to it; and she herself became *the first Abbess*. Soon after, about the year 666 or 670, she resigned her government of it to her daughter Ermenilda, who became the second Abbess, and then retired, in the year A.D. 679, to the Isle of Ely to the monastery there, over which her sister Etheldred presided. Etheldred died in 679, and was succeeded by her sister Sexburga, who was then resident in that monastery. She seems to have died there on July 6, 699, and was succeeded as Abbess by her daughter Ermenilda, who quitted the rule of the Monastery of Minster for that of Ely. These three abbesses lie buried near each other in the Monastery of Ely.

PEDIGREE CONNECTING BERTHA WITH SEXBURGA.*



* This pedigree was kindly sent by Rev. R. H. Dickson, Rector of Eastchurch.

But the antiquity of this cell of Minster and the sanctity attributed to it by older times could not so screen or rescue it from the heat of war; for it was thrice sacked and dismantled by the barbarous irruptions of the Danes: first in A.D. 832, when thirty-five sail arrived, and, landing in the Isle of Sheppey, met with no opposition, for King Egbert had disbanded his army; again in 849 and 851 by the armies of those who wintered in the island, to which we have already referred. Besides these and other incursions by the Danes the complices of Earl Godwin and his sons in 1052 landed in the island, and miserably harassed it, by filling all places with ruin and devastation.

Indeed, religion, when it glitters with a splendid and full revenue, is like the pictures of the ancient saints, apparelled in rich garments, which some have been enticed to rob, not out of ill will to their sanctity, but love to their shrines and beauty of their clothes. Persecution and the robes of humility were the attire of the primitive Church; and when she is dressed up in gaudy fortunes, it is no more than she merits; yet sometimes it occasions the devil to cheat her of her holiness, and impious men, by an unjust and injurious sacrilege, to cheat her of her riches. Although the glory of this cloister was so bowed down and broken with misfortunes that it appeared almost sunk in its own calamities, yet by the piety of subsequent ages it buoyed up again.

Thus the religious of this monastery were subject to continual instances of cruelty and oppression, and at last their house was in a great measure destroyed, and the nuns dispersed. And it remained in this condition till the reign of William the Conqueror, when the nuns from Newington were removed here. It continued in a ruined condition till the year 1130, when it was re-edified and replenished with a new colony of Benedictine nuns by William de Corbeuil, Archbishop of Canterbury, and dedicated to St. Mary and St. Sexburga. The revenues and privileges of this house were confirmed by King Henry I. (1120). As early as this reign the Church was appropriated to the Abbey of St. Augustine in Canterbury, and two monks officiated here—one as a curate, and the other as chaplain and confessor to the nuns.

King Henry II. confirmed to the prioress and nuns of this monastery the site and appurtenances, and all privileges. But

more especially were they benefited by the indulgent charity of King Henry IV., who in the first year of his reign (1399) confirmed their old privileges, and to these added by patent many new ones.

In the eighth year of King Richard II. (1384), the temporalities of the monastery were valued at £66 8s., and spiritualities at £73 6s. 8d. ; total, £139 14s. 8d. It continued the peaceful abode of noble virgins till the suppression, when they were valued at £129 7s. 10d., being £10 *less* than they amounted to two hundred years before. At this time there were a prioress and only ten nuns.

In 27 King Henry VIII., 1536, the revenue was £122 14s. 6d. *clear annual income*, and since under £200 a year it was suppressed, and, together with all its possessions, became vested in the hands of the Crown.

The palace of the Lady Prioress was a noble structure, and was all built of freestone, and commanded a picturesque view of a beautiful landscape and of the ships sailing up and down the river. The Lady Prioress's jurisdiction extended all over the isle, and she was always a person of noble blood. Besides the palace, the cloisters, chapter-house, dormitory, refectory, and other offices, were also all built of freestone, and enclosed with high walls.

To the Prioress Alicia Crane, 28 King Henry VIII., 1537, was granted a pension of £14 a year for her life towards her proper support and maintenance.

A great portion was demolished immediately after the surrender of the monastery. The manor was not long in the King's hands, for on November 12, A.D. 1538, the site was granted (29 King Henry VIII.), together with all the manors, to Sir Thomas Cheyne; and his son, Henry Lord Cheyne, having in the reign of Queen Elizabeth exchanged it with that queen for other lands, she gave the site and manor to Sir Edward Hoby [Thomas (Harris)], who had married her kinswoman, Margaret, the daughter of Henry Lord Hunsdon, of whom we find this interesting entry in the Register of Minster :

"December, 1591. Signior Jeronimo, a Spanyard, prisoner to Sir Edward Hoby, taken in the fight with the Spanish flete 1588, was buried the vth day."

SIR EDWARD HOBY.

Queen Elizabeth regranted the manor and site of the monastery to Sir Thomas Hoby, who died as Ambassador at Paris, July 13, 1566, æt. 36. He was succeeded by his son, Sir Edward Hoby, Knt., who was a famous and worthy knight. In 1582 he was made Constable of Queenborough Castle, and died there A.D. 1616. He was M.P. for Queenborough, 12 King James I. (?). In March, 1593, Queen Elizabeth granted a lease to Sir Edward Hoby and Lady Margaret, his wife, of Shurland and other land in Sheppey, rented at £136 a year.

BORSTAL.

Mr. Thomas Randall devised it by his last will and testament to Mr. John Swift.

CHAPTER V.

MONUMENTS.

“**A**T Minster I saw some antique monuments of the Shurlands, Lords of the Manor of Shurland, hereunto adjoining, of whom the inhabitants have many strange relations not worth remembering.” So Weever writes. Sir Robert Shurland flourished in the reign of King Edward I. (1272–1307.)

I. BARON DE SHURLAND.

This monument is so well known that it is not necessary to give a very full account of it; but it would be a great want in the notice of those in this Church to leave the most important without remark. For wherever the English language is spoken something about it is known. The legend of the Grey Dolphin, which is the legend of Sheppey, has been read by multitudes. It may be useful to point a moral, or to teach a lesson, to refer to this record of the past.

Sir Jeffrey Shurland, who was the first of note, lived in the reign of Henry III., and in 9 anno (A.D. 1225) was Constable of Dover Castle. His son was Sir Robert de Shurland, and was a man of eminent authority in the following reign of Edward I., under whom he was Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports; and in 28 anno (A.D. 1300) was in attendance upon the King at the siege of Caerlaverock, in Scotland, by whom for his gallant behaviour he was created a knight banneret. He died without male issue, leaving one only daughter, Margaret, his heiress, who, marrying with William, son of Sir Alexander Cheyne, Knight, entitled him to the possession of this manor, of which he died seised in the eighth year of the reign of King Edward III., A.D. 1323. He left issue, a son, Sir Robert Cheyne, who was

knighted in the thirty-sixth year of that reign, at which time his son Richard was ten years of age.

The tomb represents the figure of a man in full armour, his head resting on his helmet, and the body lying on his left side on his shield. At his feet is the figure of his knight, who is also represented in armour. The figure of the horse's head, on this great Baron's tomb, represented as rising above the waves and appearing just behind his right leg, which is crossed over the other, has given rise to a tale which has been reported commonly among the people for very many years. The legend is related in the *Ingoldsby Legends*. In Ireland's *Medway* we read that the horse's head may have been probably placed there to express the Baron's affection for a favourite horse, which had been the means of saving his life by swimming with him across the Swale; or, as Philipott observes, the foundation of the story is supposed to have arisen from Baron de Shurland having obtained a grant of wreck of the sea bestowed on him by Edward I. in the tenth year of his reign, A.D. 1282, which privilege is always esteemed to reach as far into the water upon the lowest ebb as a man can upon a horse ride in and touch anything with the point of his lance. We may notice that the vane of the Church, instead of the feather of the arrow, has the head of a horse, and on the top of all has the figure of a horse. So ordinary a right as the one mentioned above can hardly account with any probability, we should ourselves rather suppose, for such singular and unusual facts. The slab on which the figure rests, and the figures on it, are the ancient portions of the monument. The canopy, and beautiful carved heads on either side, and the fine finial of oak leaves on the top, are comparatively modern. It is supposed that these were prepared for a monument to some highly respected and beloved lady abbess, but, for reasons over which men that live have no control, never completed. The finial was intended to reach the roof of the Church, instead of occupying its present position; and when we consider the stone that is so carved, and the excellent character of the work (for the heads are doubtless taken from life, and convey a clear personal likeness to the mind), we must, I think, give our praise to the sculptor, whose name is not even known.

II. SIR THOMAS CHEYNE, K.G.

Sir Thomas Cheyne, as his name appears to be spelt, was a man of great account in his time, and descended from a noble family. In the seventh year of King Henry VIII., A.D. 1516, he was Sheriff of the county of Kent. When the Monastery of St. Sexburga was dissolved in 1536, it did not long continue in the King's hands; for on November 12, of the twenty-ninth year of King Henry, he, by indenture, granted it, with site, farms, lands, and possessions belonging to it, to Sir Thomas Cheyne, afterwards K.G., Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, and Treasurer of the Household, to hold *in capite* by knight's service. Thomas Cheyne had, on April 10 in that year, bought of the King all stock, store, and cattle as belonged to the late monastery for £198 sterling. Sir Thomas Cheyne was made Constable of Queenborough Castle anno 3 Henry VIII., and was likewise Treasurer of the Household to King Edward VI., and at the King's death, espousing the cause of Queen Mary, he was again made Warden of the Cinque Ports; and Queen Elizabeth continued him Treasurer, and made him of her Privy Council. He died the first year of Queen Elizabeth, and was succeeded in his estates by his only son, Henry, afterwards knighted and created Lord Cheyne of Toddington in the county of Bedford. He was twice married: first to Fridwith, daughter of Sir Thomas Frowike, Lord Chief Justice of England, by whom he had issue one son, John, and three daughters, at length his co-heirs. His son John married Margaret, daughter of George Nevill, Lord Abergavenny; Katherine was married to Sir Thomas Kempe, Knight; Frances, to Nicholas Crispe, Esq.; Anne, to Sir John Perrot, Knight. The arms on the east and west sides of the monument refer to these. Sir Thomas Cheyne bore for his crest, On a wreath argent and vert, two horns of a bull argent on the curled scalp or; but Lord Cheyne changed it to, a Thoye passant, collared with a ducal collar or. His second wife was Anne, daughter of Sir John Broughton, of Toddington, in the county of Bedford, Knight, by whom he had an only son, Henry, who became his heir. Sir Thomas Cheyne resided at Shurland, the mansion of which he new-built, with great hospitality and sumptuous house-keeping, till the time of his death, which happened in the Tower on

December 8, A.D. 1559, and he was buried with great pomp and magnificence in a small chapel adjoining to the north-east portion of the Parish Church of Minster.

His son Henry, Lord Cheyne, October 22, 1581, obtained a licence to remove the coffins and bones of his father and ancestors thence, he having sold the materials of the said chapel to Sir Humphrey Gilbert, and place them in the Parish Church. The coffin of his father was, among others, removed, and deposited in the north chancel, where a handsome monument was erected over him. The inscription, as far as is known, reads as follows: "Hic jacet D Thomas Cheyne inclitissimi Ordinis Garterii Miles: Guardianus quinque Portuum, ac Thesaurarius Hospitii. Henrici octavi, ac Edwardi Sexti, Regum: Reginæque Mariæ, ac Elizabethæ, ac eorum in secretis Consiliarius, qui obiit die mensis Decemb: A^o 1559, ac Regni R. Elizabeth primo." It could thus be read in 1631, and was written down by J. Weever.

"The Manor of Shurland, seated eastward from Minster, belonged to these Cheynies, and to the said Philip Earl aforesaid, whom King James created Baron Herbert of Shurland and Earl of Montgomery upon the same day, viz. the fourth day of May, 1605; and whom King Charles, our dread sovereign, hath made Lord Chamberlain of his Household; and to whom, by the death of his thrice noble brother, William Earl of Pembroke, are added the honour and titles of Earl of Pembroke, Baron Herbert of Cardiff in Wales, Lord Parre and Bros of Kendal, Marmion, and St. Quintin."

Now Mr. Cooper, of Toddington Manor, Dunstable, sends me from Lyson's *Bedfordshire* this note:

"Mary, daughter and heir of Thomas Peyore, the sixth in descent from Sir Paulinus, married Sir John Broughton, whose daughter and co-heir, Anne, brought this Manor, i.e. Toddington, in marriage to Sir Thomas Cheyne, K.G., Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports. His son Henry was knighted by Queen Elizabeth in 1563, she being then on a visit at Toddington. In 1572 he was created Lord Cheyne of Toddington. He died without issue, 1587."

He adds this note: "In the south transept are some ancient monuments of the Peyores. As appears by the arms, one of them was a Crusader. In the same transept are monuments of Anne, wife of Sir Thomas Cheyne, K.G., 1561;

Henry Lord Cheyne, 1587; and his widow, Jane Lady Cheyne, 1614. On each of these were the effigies of the deceased, now much mutilated."

Henry Lord Cheyne was possessed of much land in this parish, which, with all the rest of his estates, through his profuse manner of living, he was obliged to alienate from time to time, and acquired the name of the *extravagant Lord Cheyne*, and before his death had dissipated the great possessions which his father had left him. It is said that on the visit of Queen Elizabeth to his great house at Toddington he expended upwards of £1,000 sterling, equal to £20,000 of our time.

CANON SCOTT ROBERTSON'S NOTE ON KING HENRY VIII.
AT SHURLAND, A.D. 1532.

Kentish historians have strangely overlooked the visit paid to Sheppey by King Henry VIII. in October, 1532. Yet it was an event of unusual interest; and probably the observations then made by "bluff King Hal" and his Ministers of State resulted in the erection of the first Fort at Sheerness and in the repair of the defensive works of Queenborough Castle.

The amorous King was, at that period, completely enthralled by his passion for the fair Anne Boleyn. Mainly to her influence may we ascribe the English monarch's journey to meet, for a second time, the French king, Francis I. Of this journey, the royal visit to Sheppey formed merely an opening incident. Sir Thomas Cheyne, whose handsome monument forms so interesting a feature in the chancel of Minster Abbey Church, had recently rebuilt Shurland House. The beautiful Anne Boleyn, who had, in September, 1532, been created Marchioness of Pembroke, was connected by marriage, though not in blood, with this distinguished man. His father's first wife had been Isabel, daughter of Sir Geoffrey Boleyn. Sir Thomas himself was not Isabel Boleyn's son, being the issue of his father's second marriage; yet the connection was sufficiently close to give the new Marchioness an interest in him and in his fine new mansion at Shurland.

The political world was informed that the Kings of France and England would meet for the purpose of completing a treaty, binding them both to unite their forces in expelling

the infidel Turks from Europe. Private despatches to the Emperor Charles V. from his agent at the English Court informed his Imperial Majesty that King Henry had his divorce from Queen Katherine in his thoughts much more than the expulsion of the Turks. He will take with him to France, said the Emperor's agent, a legion of doctors of law and monks favourable to his divorce. The private despatch went on to say that the lady, Anne Boleyn, did much to bring about the meeting of the two kings, and that she was to accompany King Henry to France. In preparation for the journey, she had been busily purchasing costly dresses for herself; and the King had exerted himself to the utmost to procure for her a right royal supply of magnificent jewels. Not content with giving her all his own Court gems, he had persuaded his sister, the Queen Dowager of France, to lend hers for the occasion. He had also the effrontery to compel Queen Katherine, his greatly wronged wife, to send him all her jewels to adorn her rival's beauty.

The plague had just broken out in London and elsewhere. Consequently, says the Emperor's agent in his despatch, the King will start on St. Francis's Day (October 4); and to avoid Rochester, and other places where people are dying of the plague, he will go from Greenwich to Gravesend by water in his royal barge. There he will embark in the *Minion*, of about one hundred and fifty tons burden, and sail to AN ISLE IN THE THAMES, where he will feast for three days at the house of a gentleman named Cheyne; thence he will go by land to Canterbury and Dover, and will cross the sea in the *Minion*.

Thus was the King's visit to Sheppey announced, with full particulars, to the renowned Emperor Charles V. Circumstances, however, caused the royal plans to be somewhat changed. Instead of starting upon October 4, 1532, the King did not set out until the seventh of that month. This delay compelled him to curtail somewhat his stay with Sir Thomas Cheyne, in the newly built mansion at Shurland.

As if in anticipation of the coursing matches, for which Sheppey is so celebrated in modern times, King Henry, before he left Greenwich, took part in the trial of a brace of greyhounds in the Mote Park there. Respecting that trial of dogs, he made a wager with Lord Rochford, who was Anne

Boleyn's brother, and lost it. Lord Rochford pocketed 45s. of the King's money over that event, on October 6, 1532.

When Henry set out with his Court on the following day, the royal barge was manned by twenty-six men, under Captain Johnson. From the Privy Purse accounts we know that this crew received £11 6s. 8d. for serving with the King in his voyage to Sheppey. In addition to the King's barge, there was another vessel in attendance, the name of which is not mentioned. It may have been the *Minion*, named in the despatch written to the Emperor; but more probably it was the *Swallow*, in which, as we know from other sources, King Henry subsequently crossed from Dover to Calais. Whatever the name of this craft may have been, we know that it was manned by eighteen men, commanded by John Carter; they were employed in the King's service for ten days, and were paid as many guineas.

Probably Sir Thomas Cheyne had some landing-place at Warden convenient for Shurland. Arriving there late in the afternoon, on October 7, the King seems to have devoted the whole of the next day to the enjoyment of such sport as Sir Thomas Cheyne's park at Shurland afforded. Upon the "Keeper of Mr. Cheyne's Park" the royal sportsman caused 7s. 6d. to be bestowed—a sum worth more than £4 of our money. Probably deer-hunting and hawking formed the principal sport; but no particulars have come down to us. The deer would be confined to the park, which was thoroughly enclosed and strictly preserved. The general pastures of the island were then, as now, devoted to sheep. Five years before, a licence granted to Sir Thomas Cheyne tells us what he then did with the fleeces. In March, 1527, he obtained the royal licence to export, out of England, five hundred sacks of wool grown in the Isle of Sheppey. The export seems to have been through the Straits of Morocco, *i.e.* the Straits of Gibraltar.

Modern visitors to Shurland cannot easily realize the splendour of the house in which King Henry VIII. was received by Sir Thomas Cheyne. Nor can they well conceive the pomp and state with which that powerful lord of Sheppey was usually surrounded. He kept in wages, at Shurland, no less than one hundred and sixty serving men; and when he summoned his retinue of gentlemen and retainers, bound to him by various ties, together with his tenants and their

men, not less than three hundred persons would assemble at Shurland, around the great knight who was its lord and master. Such a summons they would all receive when the King was expected; and we may reasonably infer that when Sir Thomas entertained Henry VIII. his train included from three to four hundred attendants. As the cavalcade approached his house, the King beheld a stately residence which extended over no less than twelve walled quadrangles. Half of these were occupied by the mansion, its hall, its chapel, its gatehouse, and the lodgings for the guests; while in and around the other six quadrangles were the various domestic and farming offices, stables, well-house, enclosed gardens, and courtyards. The existing house is formed from the gatehouse, and some of the rooms which flanked it. The great hall ran parallel to the gatehouse on the opposite or eastern side of the great quadrangle. Behind it (eastward) were two smaller courts; and still farther east, beyond them, stood three small courtyards. In the southernmost of the three was the chapel. Flanking these six principal courtyards of the mansion were other walled courts of large size.

Thus the royal guest and his retinue were nobly lodged in the great house at Shurland. They and the spectators little thought that in less than fifty years from the time of that royal visit this stately mansion would be desolate, its chief lodgings occupied by a tenant farming the land, and its courtyards surrounded by ten tenements, wherein lived ten able men who could serve in defence of the island with calivers, pikes, bows, or such-like weapons, used in the time of Queen Elizabeth.

Considering the size of the household, we are not surprised to learn from the book of King Henry's Privy Purse expenses that when he left Shurland the sum of £6 13s. 4d. was bestowed upon the servants of Sir Thomas Cheyne as a gratuity. This sum was equivalent to £70 or £80 of our money.

On October 9, probably, the long and glittering cavalcade of the royal party was seen wending its way throughout the length of Sheppey, from Shurland to King's Ferry, whence the King passed to Sittingbourne. He stayed one night at Canterbury; and then, proceeding to Dover, crossed over to Calais, for his second meeting with the French king, Francis I. —*Sheppey Church Magazine*, Vol. II.

III. EFFIGY OF A KNIGHT OF THE FIFTEENTH CENTURY.

Jordan de Shepey was buried in the Church of Minster, where his tomb still remains without any inscription or character. Jordanus de Scapeia, as written (Hasted) in old and dateless deeds, held Norwood, and had issue, Stephen de Northwood; the first that bore this appellation. He was father to Sir Roger de Northwood, who lies buried in Minster Church, and who was at the siege of Acre in Palestine with King Richard I. John Northwood, one of this family, feasted King Henry V. at the Red Lion, Sittingbourne, and the wine amounted upon the whole account to 9s. 9d., wine being then rated at 1d. a pint.

It is not always that a monument of rude art is the least valuable to the historian or the archæologist. The sculpture of this monument is so extremely rude that the face has the appearance of twelfth-century work. The features are formed out of the solid round by merely cutting away a little of the surface beyond their outline. The rest of the figure is drawn with scrupulous exactness, and throughout to scale. The statue is of Purbeck marble, and was dug up in the churchyard of Minster in 1833, being found at the depth of five feet below the surface. It has very properly been placed on some fragments of the ancient monastery, in the north chancel, with an inscription giving the particulars of its discovery. It is probably owing to this circumstance of its burial that we owe the preservation of the curious little figure of a soul, which is held upon the breast. Had the figure been above ground, it is almost certain that some would have condemned our knight as an image worshipper, and the "image" itself would have fallen at one blow of the hammer. As it is, the effigy had suffered much mutilation before it was buried. Not a trace of colour is left on the surface, and the decomposition of the marble has been so powerful that it has all the appearance of a common grey sandstone. The figure is of life size in full relief, and lies upon a coped slab, of which much has been cut away.

From the arming, the date of the work appears to be about A.D. 1440,—not earlier, or the tuilles would not be of such advanced form; not later, or the gauntlets would have exchanged their fingers for broad plates. The breastplate of our knight is in two parts, the lower overlapping the other,

so as to give greater flexibility. The tassets are of five loops, overlapping from above. From the *tuilles* much has been cut away; but their arrangement may yet be traced, one in front and one on each side. Beneath was probably a fringe of chain; but neither at this spot nor in any part of the figure can now be found any indication of chain mail. Over the breastplate is worn the gorget of plate, of which the border, at the lower edge, has almost the appearance of a decorative collar. The arm defences are entirely of plate, the *epaulières* curious, from their rebated edge overlapping the breastplate. The gauntlets have flexible cuffs, and divisions for the fingers. The legs are also armed with plate. On the outside of each knee-cap is a large plate in the form of a five-leaved rose.

Of the *sabatyns*, and the lion at the feet, so much has been cut away that we can only guess at their form from the outlines. Both sword and dagger have disappeared. A single narrow waistband, terminating with an ornament resembling a fleur-de-lis, is the only belt on the figure.

The knight has the rounded hair and beardless face of the period. Under his head is a lozenge-shaped pillow, supported by two ministering angels. But the most curious feature of the memorial is the little figure of a soul in prayer, sculptured in a "mystic oval," and borne in the knight's hands, himself in an attitude of prayer. As far as is known, no similar example has been left to our times, though we find memorials that lead us to the discovery of this one.

It is not easy to assign the figure to its proper owner; but probably, if a Northwood, it represents John Northwood, Esq., who died in anno 2 Richard II. (A.D. 1416), when, as Hasted informs us, "leaving no issue male, his two sisters became his co-heirs." The memorial was probably buried in the churchyard in the troublous times of the sixteenth century.

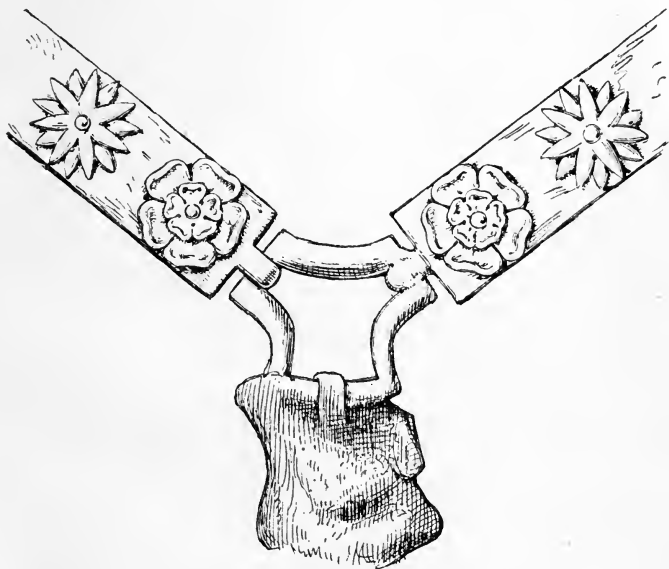
We have to acknowledge that this interesting account was gathered from a paper written by J. Hewitt, Esq., in 1842.

Through the courtesy of Canon Scott Robertson we are able to add that *tassets*, or *taces*, were attached to the cuirass, encircling the body and hanging below the waist; *epaulières* occupied the place of modern epaulets; *sabatyns*, or *sabbatons*, are for the defence of the feet; *tuilles* were pieces of armour attached to the tasset, and defending the thighs.

We may surely believe that this monument tells of one whose life was a life of prayer; and we may hope that he, whose figure tells of the value that he placed on his soul, lived devoted to its highest interest. In this day, when so much thought is given to materialism, we may learn a lesson from this monument. May those who look on it offer a prayer for their own souls, and more earnestly than ever live devoted to its salvation! "for what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?"

IV. AN UNKNOWN YORKIST.

We now turn to one that holds the most eminent position in the Church—that is, the north-east wall of the north chancel.



THE "YORKIST COLLAR."

It is an altar tomb, partly embedded in the wall, with a very fine decorated panelling in Bethersden marble forming a sort

of background, while the side of the altar is also of a beautiful character. There were manifestly once on both portions the heraldic descriptions of the man whose figure rests on the tomb. For centuries, we may say, there has been a legend that it was the tomb of a Spaniard taken at the time of the Armada. But a drawing of the collar was carefully made, and Mr. Scott Gatty, *York Herald*, thus writes of it: "This collar is the 'Yorkist Collar,' as in contradistinction from the 'Lancastrian'; it consists of York roses (white) alternately with 'sunbursts.' Edward IV. bore it round the royal arms. The pendant generally was a white lion." We may notice that a lion is lying at the feet of the figure. Now comes the question, and a very interesting one it is: To whom was this handsome memorial erected? It has been conjectured, or rather put as a possibility, that it might be GEORGE, DUKE OF CLARENCE, brother of Edward IV., who was Governor of Queenborough Castle in 1465. The figure is of unusual size; it is in alabaster; and a draped female is supporting the cushion on which the head rests. It has been much mutilated, and some of the initials cut upon it were done by persons some two hundred years ago. So also the inscription, which ran along the top of the tomb, has been torn off; for you can easily perceive the sockets in which the fastenings of the brass scroll were fixed.

Mr. Henry T. A. Turmine, whose knowledge of Sheppey is so well known, has kindly sent me the following, which I think best to print in the form received from him:

"Edward IV., in the fourth year of his reign, granted the Manor—paramount over the Manors in Sheppy (not Sheppey)—and hundred of Milton, or Middleton, with the Governorship of Queenborough Castle, to his youngest brother, George Plantagenet, Duke of Clarence, who in the eighteenth year (1479) of that reign was attainted of 'high treason,' and executed in the Tower of London (*Hasted's Kent*, Vol. VI.).

"According to some historians, the said Duke of Clarence was drowned in a butt of Malmsey.

"The duke's death occasioned so much clamour amongst the populace that the 'Ministry' were obliged to conceal the manner of it, and to pretend that he died suddenly from grief and vexation; and as a proof that no violence had been perpetrated on his person, his body was exposed in the

Cathedral of St. Paul, London (Lyttleton's *Hist. of England*, who is very sceptical regarding the drowning in the butt of Malmsey).

"He left one son, Edward, Earl of Warwick, and a daughter, afterwards Countess of Salisbury.

"Where was he buried?

"If the Earl of Warwick and his brother, who were slain at the Battle of Barnet in 1471, and whose bodies were afterwards 'exposed' at St. Paul's, were taken to Bisham in Berkshire for interment, their apparent or ancestral place of sepulture, why may not the body of the Duke of Clarence, after 'exposure' at St. Paul's, have been brought to Minster for interment, he having been Lord Paramount of the Manors of Minster and Governor of Queenborough Castle? In the reign of Henry VI. Humphrey Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, slain at Sevenokes (?), fighting against Cade in 1450, was a governor of Queenborough Castle. Can the 'tomb' be his? I cannot trace his place of interment.

"In 1470, after Edward's flight and Henry's restoration, the 'prominent' Yorkists either fled 'beyond seas,' or took shelter in sanctuaries, where the ecclesiastical privileges offered them protection (Hume, *Edward IV.*).

"Of course the effigy in question may be that of one of *these* 'prominent Yorkist' refugees."

The following note from Mr. H. Turmine shows that George the Duke of Clarence was not buried here. Thus the grand monument has no one to whom it can be ascribed. The effigy of some noble man whose deserts claimed such a memorial from his compeers has no name. It is still a mystery, and may never be discovered:

"The body of the Duke of Clarence, said to have been drowned in a butt of Malmsey, after being exposed in St. Paul's Cathedral, was buried at Tewkesbury in Gloucestershire, by that of his duchess, Isabella, daughter and co-heir of Richard Nevil, the great Earl of Warwick."*

V. BRASSES OF SIR JOHN DE NORTHWODE AND LADY JOAN DE BADLESMERE, HIS WIFE.

From certain peculiarities of habit and equipment, these brasses are considered to have been engraved in France, and

* Rapin's *Hist. of England*, published 1728.

may be assigned to the year A.D. 1325. In this example, as it now appears, the effigy of the knight is in the cross-legged attitude, though it would seem at some unknown period to have been cut into two parts, and, after the removal of a strip of the metal, the extremities to have been again placed in juxtaposition, thus destroying all appearance of proportion in the entire figure. At the restoration of the Church this piece was made new and placed into position through the munificence of the Rev. Curteis H. Norwood, rector of Chaffcombe Chard, Somerset, who claims to be a descendant. He also had the brasses placed on separate blocks of marble, since the former matrix of Bethersden marble was broken into two pieces. The old slab is placed under the south choir seats. When the brasses were taken to London, they were in seven pieces; and Mr. Waller, under whose superintendence they were relaid, wrote: "They have been embedded with cement, and rivets pass quite through the slabs, and are screwed up with nuts, etc., underneath. The slabs are of Derbyshire fossil marble, of a very durable character; so that I hope these interesting monuments have now a long lease before them. I presume they will not now be subject to much traffic." We keep them always covered with good carpet.

When the brasses were laid before the Society of Antiquaries, it was found that the lowest portion of the knight's brass is a palimpsest, *i.e.* that that piece of brass had been used before. We thus find that on the back there is a good engraving, showing that in its first use this piece belonged to a brass which commemorated a lady. Now it may be that this explains the meaning of the missing portion, which gives the inscription which tells us that the burial of Sir R. de Northwode and his wife was before the Conquest. This inscription may have belonged to the lady for whom the brass was first used, and with slight alteration was made to suit its new use, which, thus stated, was manifestly untrue. It was: "Hic jacet Rogerus Northwood, Miles, sepultus ante Conquestum" (Harris). "Hic jacet Rogerus Norwood et bona uxor ejus. Sepulti ante Conquestum" (Weever). The plate, whether of brass or of any more precious metal, is not now to be found (Ireland's *Medway*, p. 15). A writer in the *Archæological Journal*, Vol. VII., p. 197, from this inscription speaks of Sir Roger and his wife *Bona*, which is probably incorrect:

"Lady Bona, sister and heir of William de Wauton." Surely the translation should read: "Here lie Roger Norwood and his *good* wife. Buried before the Conquest."

"The Norwoods are a worthy ancient family, I confess; and may very well, for anything I know, have flourished before the Conquest. But I am sure that the character of this inscription is but of later times, making but little show of any great antiquity" (Weever).

Mr. Philipott writes: "The vulgar, upon a credulous error, everywhere affirm that all those who are thus (cross-legged) buried were interred after the Conquest, when it is certain that many were entombed in this position before the Conqueror that had obliged themselves by vow to defend the Cross and sepulchre of our Saviour against the fury and attacks of infidels. Sure I am the tomb next to this appears to be far more ancient, and of so venerable a form, that its like doth not occur in any other place. There is not any letter of inscription left; only the coat is a sure testimony that it was one of the ancestors of the family of the Norwoods."

Mr. Waller, who has known the brasses since 1838, and whose work on Monumental Brasses is well known, considers the entire lower portion was abstracted, the existing lower portion from below the knees proving, on a careful examination, to be a restoration, or rather an alteration (*temp.* King Henry VIII.), it is supposed, executed at a period subsequent to the other part of the work. Both the design and engraving are evidently the production of another, and that an inferior hand, while the metal itself betrays a diversity of composition. This is a highly remarkable circumstance, inasmuch as thus the very effigy, which appeared to militate against the assertion that the cross-legged attitude is exclusively characteristic of British monumental memorials, strongly corroborates that opinion. Originally the legs could not have been crossed (Waller). Besides this brass, but one other specimen can with any degree of certainty be attributed to French artists—the interesting monument of Margaret de Carmoys, A.D. 1310, at Trotton, Sussex. Haines writes: "The peculiar position of the shield over the left thigh of the knight and the singular costume of the lady prove the effigies to be of foreign, and most probably of French, origin." So Waller: "In England there is but one we can safely

speculate upon as of French design. This is, in many respects, so dissimilar to contemporary works, both in costume and execution, the lappets of the lady's hood not being seen in any other example, but common to French effigies of the time, that we may well assume it to be French."

This unique brass may be assigned to 1330, for we find that Sir John de Northwode was summoned to Parliament as a baron of the realm about the sixth year of Edward II. (1313), and died about that period, having previously received knighthood from King Edward I. at the siege of Caerlaverock.

He is represented as wearing a bascinet (a light helmet) and camail (short cloak) of ring mail, a hauberk (an armour protecting the neck) of similar material, a cyclas, and haqueton. The bascinet is plain, but with an enriched border, and it assumes a singular swelling form. The camail is finished over the breast in large engrailed escallops. Attached to an ornamental staple, projecting on the left side from the cyclas, is a chain, which passes over the shoulder for the purpose of securing the tilting helm. "The helmet is attached by a chain, to enable the knight to recover it if knocked off in the fray" (Haines). The staple itself is screwed or riveted to a *Plastron de fer* or *Mamelière*, a plate of steel secured to the hauberk beneath the cyclas for the purpose of additional protection. The upper arms have no defences of plate, with the exception of escalloped coudieres, and corresponding roundels at the elbows and shoulders; the lower arms have vambraces of scalelike appearance, possibly composed of *Cuir-bouilli*, or more probably of small overlapping plates of steel; "on the wrists is an instance of ancient armour (of which only two other examples remain), which consisted of overlapping scales of plate sewed on to an under garment" (Haines); and the hands are bare. The shield, which is large and hollow, and charged with ermine, a cross engrailed (indented at the edges), gules (straight perpendicular lines) for Northwode, is suspended from a very long guige in front of the left thigh, immediately behind the sword-hilt, thus covering the upper part of the scabbard. The shield thus worn appears to have been termed "*ecu en cantiel*." The sword itself is girded by a belt buckled round the waist. The genuine portion of the lower part of the figure exhibits the skirts of the cyclas, the hauberk, and the haqueton, the latter being escalloped, and the hauberk

made to open for a short space in the centre, and on either side. The genouillères and the base of the shield also remain as originally executed. The head of the knight rests on an embroidered cushion; and another cushion, diapered after a different pattern, supports the head of his lady.

In the lady's effigy we have a very curious example of the female costume of the period. She wears a long and rather close-fitting kirtle, with tight sleeves terminating in narrow bands at the wrists; and over this a flowing mantle, lined with vair (a kind of fur compounded of divers skins). The mantle is wrapped about the entire person, and gathered up under the right arm; the arms appear through openings cut for that purpose in the sides of the mantle; and from the shoulders in front of the figure, and all the long, pointed lappets of this singular outer garment, lined throughout with the variegated fur. The hair is plaited on either side the face; and the throat and chin are enveloped in a most disfiguring whimple or gorget, or possibly in the whimple-like collar with which the kirtle or underdress was sometimes finished. The whimple discloses to us the dignity of the lady, and was only allowed to be worn by ladies of title. It signifies that she is a nobleman's daughter, and a "lady" in her own right. If she had been a princess, the whimple would have been worn higher, and not have shown her lips; if she had been merely a knight's wife, the whimple would have been lower, and only reach her chin.

The lady who is thus attired, the consort of Sir John de Northwode, was Joan de Badlesmere, a daughter probably of Bartholomew, Lord Badlesmere, of Leeds Castle, Kent.

King Edward II. summoned by his writs, bearing date February 8, in his first year (1307), at Dover, several of his gentry and their wives, in the several counties of Bucks, Bedford, Essex, Sussex, Hereford, and Kent, to be present at his and his Queen's coronation at Westminster on the Sunday next after the feast of St. Valentine the martyr. In the county of Kent they were directed, among others, to John de Northwode and his wife, and to John de Northwode, junior.

William de Northwode distinguished himself by his valour and conduct at the Battle of Agincourt and Verneuil in the reign of Henry V. and of his unfortunate son.

BRASS NOT NOW EXISTING (*Weever*).

"In the most holy name of Jesu, pray for the soul of John Soole, late of the town of Feversham, Mayor, and Margaret his wife; Agnes, Elizabeth, their daughters; and for the souls of Richard Ware, and Elizabeth, father and mother to the said Margaret his wife, and for all Christian souls. The which John deceased the day of the decollation of St. John Baptist, 1521."* The matrix may be seen in the north chancel.

CELEBRATED PERSONS (*Hasted*).

John de Shepey, LL.D., a native of this island, was first a Prebendary and then Dean of the Cathedral Church of Lincoln, and, dying in 1412, was buried in the deans' aisle there under a marble stone, having his portraiture in brass on it. He was a man of much note, as well at the latter end of King Edward III.'s reign, as during that of King Richard II., being employed by these two kings in their most weighty affairs both at home and abroad.

Sir Julius Cæsar, Knight, Master of the Rolls, in 1604 purchased Danley Farm, of Livesey, and next year settled it on his son, Charles Cæsar, Esq. He was afterwards knighted, and succeeded his father as Master of the Rolls, and was of the Privy Council to both King James and King Charles I. He died 1643, and the property passed to St. Katherine's Hospital.



CHAPTER VI.

CONDITION OF THE CHURCH IN 1877.

THIS paragraph appeared in the *Times* of December 3, 1877:

"A LIVING.

"At the last meeting of the Sheppey Board of Guardians the subject of Minster Church—the church nearest to the Sheppey Workhouse—was brought forward and discussed at some length. The Church is fast going to ruin for the want of repair, and no clergyman has yet been appointed to fill the place of the late vicar, the Rev. Dr. Willis, who died several months ago. Mr. Robert Palmer, the Chairman of the Board, said he had written to the Archbishop of Canterbury on the matter, and had received a reply that 'no one could be prevailed upon to take the living under present circumstances, but something should be done as soon as possible.' Mr. Robert Maxted, one of the guardians, observed that that was the largest parish in the county, bringing in £1,800 per year in tithes, and yet the Church was in a state which was perfectly disgraceful. Eventually the Board directed their clerk to write to the Archbishop on the matter."

The public generally had their attention further called to this by an anonymous letter which appeared in the *Times* of December 5, 1877, and which, from its importance, we print in full:

"A VACANT BENEFICE.

"TO THE EDITOR OF THE 'TIMES.'—SIR,—Minster-in-Sheppey, with its old Abbey Church, and its ancient monuments,

and tithe of £1,800 a year, has no vicar. The living is a poor one; the late vicar existed for some years on a stipend of £2 a week. The vicarage is in ruins and uninhabitable. The parish is an important one, as it includes Sheerness and Sheerness-on-Sea, with 15,000 inhabitants. The acting churchwarden and the principal residents of the rural part of the parish have appealed to the Archbishop, the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, who own the tithes, and to other sources of possible aid, but without avail. They are told that possibly in some three years' time something may be done in the way of repairing or rebuilding the vicarage. Until this is done no clergyman, with the wholesome fear of charges for dilapidations before his eyes and the paltry stipend offered out of the £1,800 a year income, will look at the living. Several have come, looked round, and gone their way. As to waiting three years, who knows what may happen before then? Perhaps disestablishment, if not disendowment. It seems to me this neglect of duty by some one—I do not say by whom—is one method of showing how little difference it would make in Sheppey if the Church were disestablished. None of us parishioners like to see our venerable old Church, one of the oldest Christian temples in Britain, thus neglected. With the Church decaying, dirty, and going to ruin, and no vicar, or probability of one being appointed, Church affairs are at a very low ebb in Sheppey.

“Yours, etc.,
“DE SHURLAND.”

Another notice was to this effect:

“It is impossible not to have our attention challenged by occasional particulars revealing an exceptional state of ecclesiastical affairs in some country parishes. The Church of Minster-in-Sheppey is one of the oldest in England, but Minster-in-Sheppey cannot get a vicar. Not long ago the Bishop of Carlisle made an appeal successfully for a vicar for one of the parishes in the Lake district; but hitherto it is not the Archbishop of Canterbury who has made the appeals for help. The parish is an important one, because it includes Sheerness and its suburbs; but the benefice is poor—very poor—and leaves the vicar only £100 a year. The vicarage is tumbling to pieces. Something may be done in about three years in

repairing or rebuilding the vicarage, on which a debt of £157 rests, the last vicar dying bankrupt. No clergyman will look at the living, with the vicarage and the Law of Dilapidations as incidents attending his pastoral duty."

The following letter was written to a local paper February, 1878 :

"DEAR SIR,—In paying my visit (as often as opportunity permits) to our venerable Church at Minster, I am painfully reminded by sundry 'outward and visible signs' of the need of immediate efforts to prevent the edifice becoming a ruin. The belfry windows are broken, the woodwork of the turret has given way in several places, and, what is worse, the slating and other portions of the roof of the south nave leave the interior open to the destructive effects of the weather. This will soon destroy what even time would lingeringly spare; in fact, the so-called ravages of time are more often attributable to the results of neglect in guarding against the destructive agencies of the weather—rain especially. The interior of the Church abounds in mournful examples of the prevalence of damp. Mouldy walls and fungous and other green patches speak of damp 'here, there, and everywhere'; and one serious effect of this is the falling down of the handsome marble tablet at the north-east corner of the south nave, and which is now a melancholy vestige of ruinous neglect. I might adduce further proofs of the need of remedial efforts to prevent rapid ruin. The churchyard footpath is dangerous in many parts, by hollows and projecting slabs of gravestones. In listening to the beautiful evening hymn, I was forcibly reminded of the appropriateness of the line, 'Change and decay in all around I see.'

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"I remain, yours truly,

"T. CRAMPTON.

"GROVE PARK, CHISWICK,
February 22, 1878."

CHAPTER VII.

RESTORATION, AND MATTERS RELATING THERETO.

ON May 8, 1878, a meeting was held at the village school which was attended by a goodly number of persons. It was presided over by the Rev. W. Bramston, vicar, who after prayer explained the object of the gathering. The Parish Church was in sad decay, and something must be done to save it from ruin. As a proof of its condition, it was stated that the candles lighted in the pulpit were burnt down to the sockets before the prayers were over. Forty panes of glass were broken or had fallen out of one of the north windows, and the lead was so rotten that they could not be replaced. During service, when wet, the rain came through the roof almost everywhere. But those present all knew the need of restoration, and resolutions were passed recommending it to be undertaken. Mr. Robert Palmer and Mr. E. C. Turmine were present, and promised to give £50 each to the work.

On May 15, 1878, Admiral Sir W. King Hall, K.C.B., presided at a meeting at Victoria Hall, Sheerness. The hall was fairly attended. After prayer, letters were read from H. Deedes, Esq., M.P., J. G. Talbot, Esq., M.P., C. H. Freshfield, Esq., M.P., Archdeacon Harrison, Canon Smith (now Archdeacon), Lord Cranbrook, and Lord Sydney, Lord-Lieutenant, regretting that they were unable to attend. The chairman made a vigorous speech in favour of the restoration.

First Resolution.—"That since the fabric of the very ancient Abbey Church of Minster-in-Sheppey is sadly dilapidated and ruinous, we resolve to obtain funds for its complete restoration." Moved by Rev. Dr. Payne; seconded by Captain Brandreth; supported by Mr. Prosser.

Second Resolution.—"That certain gentlemen, knowing well the necessity for seeking help, form themselves into a committee for the purpose of raising funds for the restoration of Minster Abbey Church." Moved by T. J. Rawnsley, Esq.; seconded by the Rev. J. Stanley Owen; supported by Mr. W. H. Shrubsole.

The other resolutions were that an appeal be printed and circulated. The usual votes of thanks concluded the meeting.

Matters then made some progress, and Mr. Ewan Christian was chosen architect. The work was estimated to cost £2,835. Tenders were sent in from five firms, varying from £2,343 to £3,619 10s. Messrs. Paramor & Son, of Margate, were selected, and the work commenced.

We may mention that the Vicar's father, W. Bramston, Esq., took much interest in the work, and aided the restoration by most useful suggestions and active supervision.

An anonymous donation of £100 was sent to the vicar; and in the name and on behalf of the Queen the Commissioners of Woods and Forests gave £500, since there are over three thousand acres of Crown lands in the parish.

At the time of the restoration there was a schoolroom in the north chancel, with entrance made in the south side of east wall. The roof of the south church had been in successive centuries repaired, till the height was lowered seven feet, and the ends of the beams having been cut off were relaid. It was found necessary to make a new roof. The porch also had to be taken down and rebuilt. At the east end there were no lancet windows to be seen; but a perpendicular window had been inserted, and the lancets filled up. The lovely windows were not destroyed. "These newly discovered and now restored thirteenth-century shafts of the eastern lancets are very good." The builders had merely cut through the wall between the two southern windows, and had left the other pillars and all the headings intact. The original windows are now seen in their beauty, for the reredos does not deprive us of a true conception of their character, and adds its own tale of interest to the Church, where it has stood for over two centuries. This was restored, as the tablet on the south side states, by A. W. Howe, Esq., in 1895:

THIS REREDOS WAS RESTORED IN 1841.

H. TURMINE, *Vicar*.
 FRANK VENABLE, }
 B. R. D. HOWE, } *Churchwardens*.

A. W. HOWE, A NATIVE OF THE PARISH, AGAIN RESTORED IT IN 1895,
 IN REMEMBRANCE OF HIS FATHER, B. R. D. HOWE.

W. BRAMSTON, *Vicar*.
 JULIUS CÆSAR, }
 CHARLES INGLETON, } *Churchwardens*.

The tablet on the north side states :

THIS MOST ANCIENT ABBEY CHURCH OF ST. MARY AND ST.
 SEXBURGA WAS RESTORED IN 1879-81, AT A COST OF
 £3,391.

W. BRAMSTON, *Vicar*.
 R. PALMER, }
 E. C. TURMINE, } *Churchwardens*.

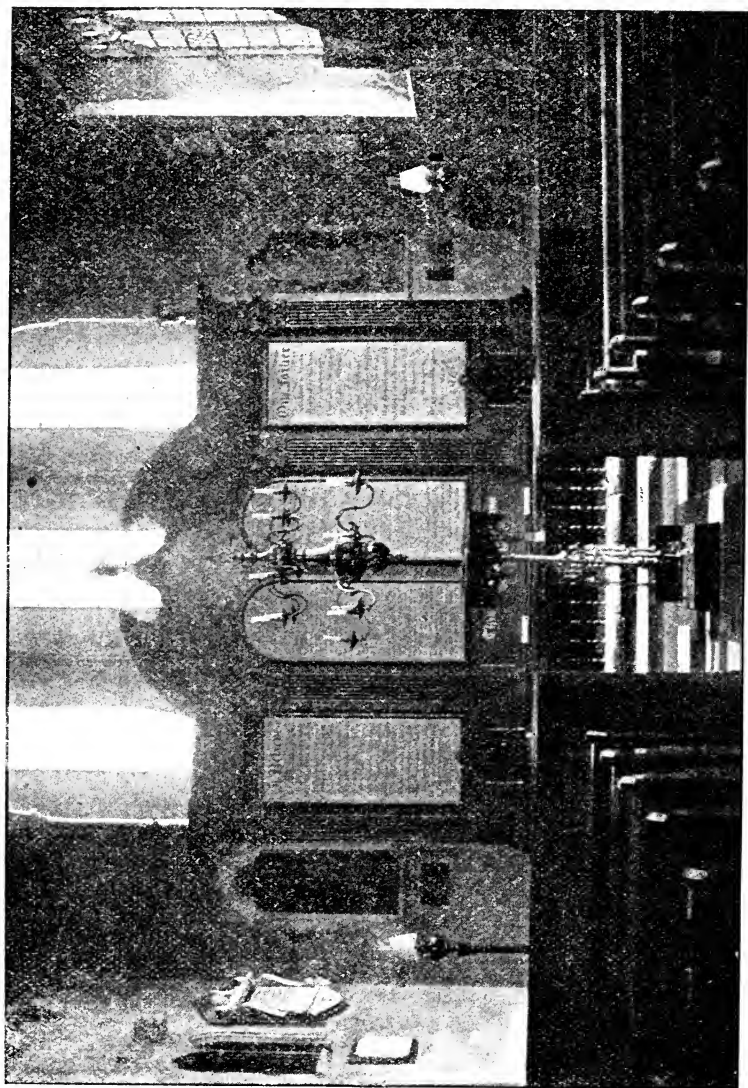
THIS CHURCH WAS RE-OPENED BY THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY
 ON JUNE 9, 1881;

THE BELFRY WAS RESTORED AND THE ORGAN ERECTED
 AT A LATER DATE.

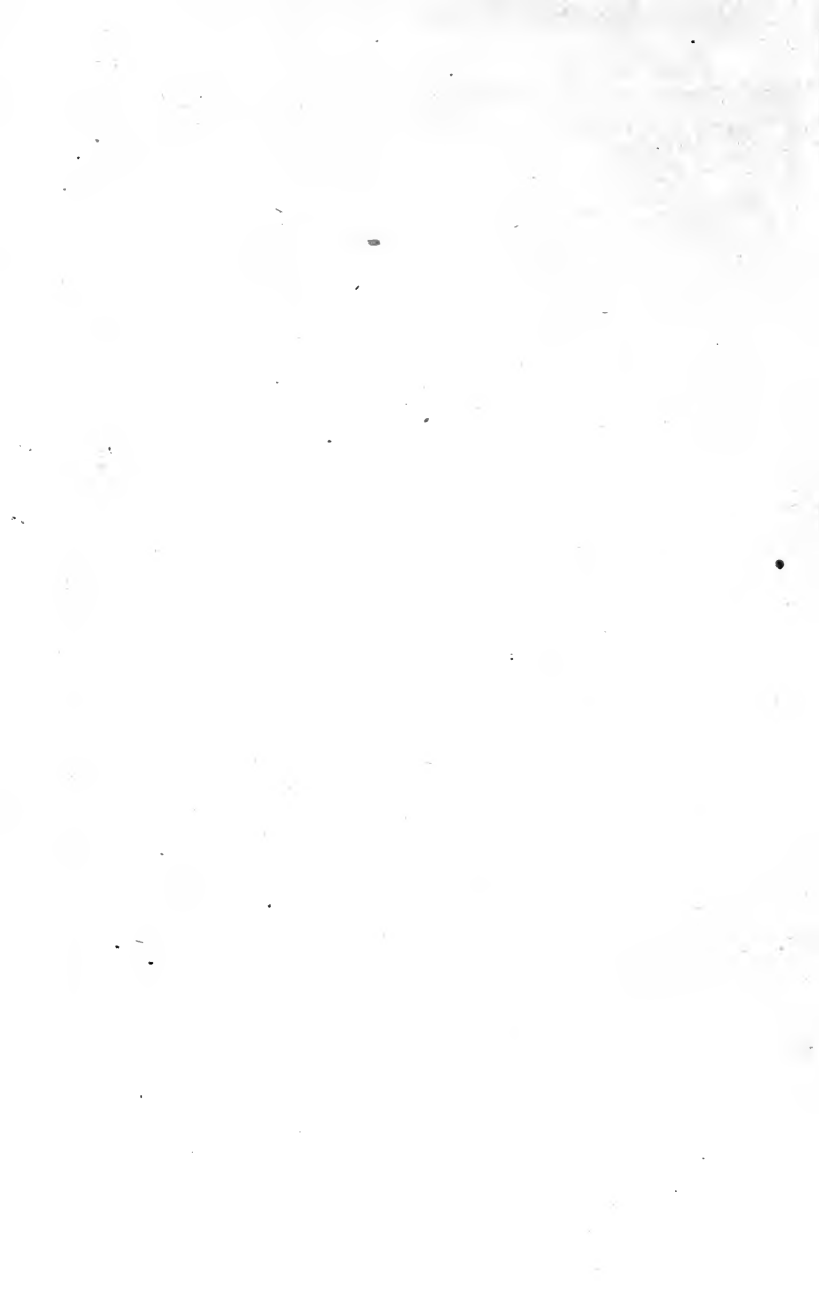
St. Nicholas.—The figure in the trefoil-headed niche on the south side of the triplet of lancets is supposed to be that of St. Nicholas the Bishop. He wears a mitre, and is robed. In the Inventory of the Priory (*temp.* Henry VIII.) two mitres for St. Nicholas are mentioned. He was the patron saint of sailors, children, and thieves. The chalk drawing is supposed to be some five hundred years old.

Beneath this niche is a large-sized aumbry, and in the south wall near it is the piscina.

On the opposite side—the north—of the reredos is another niche, and the drawing in it is gone; but on opening it at the restoration, a small stone coffin with a cover of lead was found, and in it the chief portion of a skull, the bones of which



INTERIOR, SOUTH CHURCH, LOOKING EAST.



are of unusual thickness. The door beneath this niche in the north-east corner of the parish chancel, which is visible from the exterior, is very curious, and it is supposed led into a vestry.

The buttress in the midst of the exterior of the east wall of the parish chancel is supposed to show one side of a doorway. The chamfered edge with plastering south of it leads to this view; and if you look high up on the east wall, you can see a layer of lead, which is supposed to be a portion of the guttering of the roof of this vestry. Again, what might be the floor of the doorway leading into the vestry is laid with tiles.

It was found that the middle wall has a clerestory of Norman arches; and when the wall reaches the extreme east, a Norman window is cut in two. This is a proof that the Church extended farther eastward. There are door shutters cut in the roof boards to discover them to the curious. The splay is of the ordinary kind, and the windows are no doubt Norman, probably of the time of Archbishop William of Corbeuil. The position of the sedilia in the north chancel also guides observers to the same conclusion.

The archway with hinges inside for hanging a door was reached by a corkscrew staircase from the exterior before the south church was built, and enabled persons to ascend the rood-loft.

It is almost certain that at first *Norman* arches separated the two churches, or the north and south aisles; for, as we have said, Norman windows are found in the clerestory of this middle wall. These heavy Norman arches would almost prevent a united service, and consequently when in later ages our ancestors knew how to make a nobler arch these Norman arches were removed and replaced by the present ones. This may also explain the many portions of Norman-worked stone found in places which were erected in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries.

EARTHEN JARS OR BOTTLES.

In the north wall were found several earthen jars laid on their side, which go quite through the wall, and were opening to the outer air. Some may be discerned in the exterior of the north wall, where there is also evidence that a cloister or

covered way was built against the Church on that side. The Abbey was chiefly built in the paddock, and the nuns would come from the Abbey to church by a covered way; or the covered way might have been for their own sacristan to ring the bells. But there is little doubt that these earthen jars were for acoustic purposes, and perhaps the nuns on special occasions would sing a processional hymn from their Abbey to the Church, and the congregation gathered there could hear them.

THE NORTH CHANCEL

Possesses such singular features that some of the cleverest archæologists can only say it is an enigma. The seven indentations in the east wall, the high windows, the lovely designed and proportioned reredos, all claim the notice of the visitor.

The east wall of the nuns' choir is very singular. The sedilia and the handsome shrinelike reredos are probably of the fourteenth century, when the east wall was remodelled. The arcading outside it (east) was also of the same date, and formed a portion of a covered cloister, most likely for the approach of the nuns.

The priests' door also is beautifully worked, and the proportions are perfect. The carving shows that the artist spent love and labour on it; while over it, on the left hand, as you look at it, there is a cross bottony, as it is called, which is an opening in the wall, and in it there are stone gudgeons, on which a bell used to be hung in olden times. This was sounded when service was held in the chapel that formerly existed here.

The dimensions of the Church are:

Total length of north church, 94 feet; without the tower, 71 feet.

The length of the south church is 75 feet.

The width of the north church is 26 feet 6 inches.

The width of the south church is 31 feet 1 inch.

The porch is 16 feet long and 15 feet wide.

The walls of the north church are Saxon, without the tower or chancel, for the tower is fifteenth century and the north chancel fourteenth century. The parish church, that is, the south church, is thirteenth century, while the doorway and north chancel show some transitional Norman work.

FACULTY GRANTED AUGUST 20, 1880, BY THOMAS HUTCHINSON TRISTRAM, DOCTOR OF LAWS, COMMISSARY-GENERAL.

It was granted to the Rev. William Bramston, and Robert Palmer and Edward Charles Turmine, churchwardens. The petition for the faculty contained these particulars :

1. That our petitioners desire to carry out at the Parish Church of Minster-in-Sheppey, in the county of Kent, the several works following—namely, external and internal repairs to walls of nave, parish chancel, north aisle, tower, porch, with lowering ground next to walls ; new roof in nave and parish chancel, and repair of the north aisle roof ; new floors in Church, re-setting font, and new deal seating with new south window and new triplet window for east end of parish chancel, according to specifications marked “I.”
2. That at a vestry meeting duly convened and held at the Parish Church resolutions in favour of the carrying out of such works were sanctioned.
3. That no east end or other decorations are intended to be put up.
4. That the said Church does not contain any faculty or prescriptive pews or seats, save and except two pews which are in the parish chancel, one attached to Parsonage Farm, one to the Vicarage. The one attached to Parsonage Farm in the parish belongs to Mr. Robert Palmer, and is in his occupation. It is proposed, according to Plan (B) in Exhibit (C), to make them into chancel seats behind the choir seats. The consent in writing of the said owners is annexed to the said petition marked (D).
5. That if it should be found necessary in carrying out the said works to remove any monuments, mural tablets, memorial stones, or brasses, the same will be carefully preserved and refixed upon the completion of the works as near their present position as possible ; and should it be necessary to enclose or disturb any of the graves in the churchyard, they will be arched over where practicable, and where necessary to remove the remains of any bodies they will be carefully re-interred under the care of the vicar and churchwardens.
6. That the estimated cost of the proposed works is £2,343. Towards this £1,200 has been promised, and £700 already subscribed and deposited in the London and County Bank and Post Office Savings Bank, in the names of William Bramston,

Robert Palmer, and Edward Charles Turmine. 7. That the exhibit annexed to the said petition and marked "A" is a copy of the notice convening the said vestry meeting; the exhibit annexed to the said petition marked "C" contains copies of the plans of Mr. Ewan Christian, Architect, of 8A, Whitehall Place, London, S.W., showing the works proposed to be carried out. The exhibit annexed to the said petition marked "D" is the consent of the said William Bramston and Robert Palmer, the owners of the prescriptive pews.

BELLS.

The church belfry being part of the Church, access to it cannot be had, nor the bells rung, without the permission of the incumbent, who is responsible. In 1862 a case was tried, in which the church ringers, backed up by the churchwardens and the parish clerk, had broken open the belfry and rung the bells, because there had been a meet of hounds in the village, and this when they had been forbidden to do so by the vicar. The judge condemned them, and the ringers were admonished, and ordered to pay the costs. Being unable to do this, they remained in prison five weeks, until other persons had paid them. We mention this, because sometimes bells have been used very wrongly—as, for instance, at times of general elections, or to commemorate the triumph of one party in a town or village over another—when really they ought only to be used for purposes of harmony, and to declare peace on earth. Their sweet sounds, so melancholy in the ears of some, should never be connected with any earthly divisions. They should only speak to every one, rich or poor, Conservative or Liberal, of the faith necessary in One who came for the eternal good of all. May our bells ever do this, and may they never sound unworthily, or appeal to any of our baser passions!

So far as we can ascertain, the history of Minster bells is as follows: Canon Hilton, rector of Milstead some years ago, when rural dean, had rubbings taken of these bells. Dr. Francis Grayling, of Sittingbourne, also took note of their size and weight. In the island, Minster takes the place of honour with a ring of five bells, in good order for ringing, and heavier than any other peal. All of them were dated alike "1663." The 1st, 2nd, and 3rd bells have in small letters, "William

Hatch made me, 1663"; and the 4th and tenor in capital letters, "WILLIAM HATCH MADE ME." The 3rd bell has the letters "I.P." The 4th bell, "T.D., T.M. C.W."; and the tenor "S.S.," with the same letters as the 4th bell. These two bells have also a little seal, with three bells, one placed over the others, impressed on them. The treble was cracked for a few years; but was recast in 1883, and now carries the mark "Gillett, Bland & Co., Croydon, recast A.D. 1883," and has "625" impressed under its cannon. Dr. Francis Grayling took upon himself the whole cost of the recasting. Mr. S. Snelling carried out the whole work of rehangng. The weight of the tenor is $12\frac{1}{4}$ cwts., and the diameters are 29, 31, 33, 36, $39\frac{1}{2}$ inches respectively.

Warden had a very sweet-toned bell, at present lying in the belfry of Minster. It is $23\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter, and believed to have been cast by Joseph Hatch in 1602.

The Hatches had their foundry at Ulcombe, near Staplehurst.

CHURCH PLATE.

Paten with this inscribed in it :

PSA. 116, vers. 12.

What shall I render unto
the Lord for all his Benifits
towards mee ?

A flagon, paten, and almsdish used in the Church bear this inscription :

The Bequest of Mrs. Angelica Randall
to the Parish Church of Minster,
in the Isle of Sheppey and County of Kent,
4th May, 1777.

CHALICE.

PSA. 116, vers. 13.

I will take the Cup of Salvation, and
Call uppon the name of the Lord.

In usum Perpetuum Eccles: Parach de Minster in Insula Scapoi.

ADAM SEGER }
THOMAS VIDGEN } *Churchwardens*

The marks are similar, and date is about 1650

“Glory be to God.”

ORDER OF SERVICE

AT THE

Re-opening of the Abbey Church,

MINSTER-IN-SHEPPEY,

June the 9th, 1881, at One o'clock.

As the Clergy and HIS GRACE THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY entered the Church, Hymn 245 was sung, Tune “Hesperus.”

Come, gracious Spirit, heavenly Dove,
With light and comfort from above :
Be Thou our Guardian, Thou our Guide;
O'er every thought and step preside.

The light of truth to us display,
And make us know and love Thy way ;
Plant holy fear in every heart,
That we from God may ne'er depart.

Lead us to holiness, the road
Which we must take to dwell with God :
Lead us to Christ, the living Way ;
Nor let us from His pastures stray.

Lead us to God, our final rest,
To be with Him for ever blessed :
Lead us to heaven, its bliss to share—
Fulness of joy for ever there.

Then Shortened Form of Evening Prayer. Proper Psalms, 84, 122. First Proper Lesson, 1 Chron. xxix. 1-18. Cantate. Second Proper Lesson, Heb. x. 19-26. Deus Misereatur.

After Second Collect, Hymn 540, Tune "Minster," H. Parker
(specially composed).

This stone to Thee in faith we lay ;
We build the temple, Lord, to Thee ;
Thine eye be open night and day,
To guard this house and sanctuary.

Here, when Thy people seek Thy face,
And dying sinners pray to live,
Hear Thou in heaven, Thy dwelling-place,
And when Thou hearest, O forgive !

Here, when Thy messengers proclaim
The blessed gospel of Thy Son,
Still by the power of His great name
Be mighty signs and wonders done.

Hosanna ! to their heavenly King,
When children's voices raise that song,
Hosanna ! let their angels sing,
And heaven with earth the strain prolong.

But will, indeed, Jehovah deign
Here to abide, no transient Guest ?
Here will the world's Redeemer reign ?
And here the Holy Spirit rest ?

That glory never hence depart ;
Yet choose not, Lord, this house alone :
Thy kingdom come to every heart,
In every bosom fix Thy throne.

Before Sermon, Hymn 204, "Darwell," 148th.

Lord of the worlds above,
How pleasant and how fair
The dwellings of Thy love,
Thy earthly temples are !
To Thine abode
My heart aspires,
With warm desires
To see my God.

O happy souls, that pray
Where God appoints to hear !
O happy men, that pay
Their constant service there !
They praise thee still !
And happy they
That love the way
To Zion's hill.

They go from strength to strength
 Through this dark vale of tears,
 Till each arrives at length,
 Till each in heaven appears :
 O glorious seat !
 When God our King
 Shall thither bring
 Our willing feet.

God is our sun and shield,
 Our light and our defence ;
 With gifts His hands are filled,
 We draw our blessing thence :
 Thrice happy he,
 O God of Hosts,
 Whose spirit trusts
 Alone in Thee.

SERMON BY HIS GRACE THE ARCHBISHOP OF
 CANTERBURY.

June 1, 1881, was Thursday in Whitsuntide, and consequently the Archbishop preached on the work of the Holy Spirit. We print an extract from his sermon. His text was 1 Cor. xii. 1 : "Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant."

"The original is 'spiritual things,' and it is the want of appreciation of spiritual things that makes men unwilling to receive spiritual gifts. Not only in heathen lands but in others there is this ignorance of spiritual things. Worldly men, whatever they call themselves, have no understanding, or feeling, or appreciation of these things. Even those who profess to be the guides of the age, and to unfold the latest discoveries of philosophy, deny that there are any spiritual influences at work amongst us. Hence the need of thinking on the great teaching of the gospel. Even the gospel may be set forth in such a way as to ignore its spiritual characteristics. Apollos knew only the baptism of John, and had to be instructed that he might know the way of God more perfectly.

"In many ages of the Church there has been a similar state of things. Seventy years ago, in the general teaching of the gospel in this country, there was almost no allusion to the influence and working of the Holy Spirit of God. A clergyman who made a considerable mark in his time, on accidentally reading the seventeenth Article of Religion, saw his own

deficiency in this respect. Ignorance on this matter was great long ago. It is great still.

"1. No man can even profess Christianity without the help of the Holy Spirit. The strongest argument might not convince a man unless the Holy Spirit of God were at hand to give force to the argument.

"2. There are diversities of gifts, but the same Source. Every man in the place which he finds assigned to him by God has a ministration, especially the ordained ministers of the Church; and without that Spirit how could we engage in the work, —sinful vessels of no value?

"3. If we are to have any real conviction of this spiritual operation among the people of God for the conversion of souls, our thoughts must be occupied with things unseen and eternal. We must think not only of spiritual gifts, but of the spiritual world.

"We may think of the pious ones ages past chanting their praises to God in this Church—in this Church, so full of the deepest suggestions, so beautifully situated, and so rich in memories, placed by the sea—the sea, so full of instruction to us of another life so endless, so mysterious. And in these walls the pious anthems of days gone by still seem to linger. Memories here are rich with the heroic deeds of warrior and statesman. Look, too, at that nobleman buried there, with all his legend of prowess and courage. Truly eloquent is this place with memories of the past, temporal and spiritual. May not this memory ever cease, but revive again and again with fresh and still fresh vigour! In this restored Church may the Spirit of God be at work. My wish is that you may not be ignorant of the Spirit, for how lively will your labours be if in them the Spirit works."

After Sermon, *Te Deum*, when a Collection was made. After the Blessing, Hymn 493, "Old Hundreth."

From all that dwell below the skies,
Let the Creator's praise arise;
Let the Redeemer's name be sung
Through every land, by every tongue.
Eternal are Thy mercies, Lord,
Eternal truth attends Thy word:
Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore,
Till suns shall rise and set no more.

During the singing of this hymn the Archbishop and Clergy left the Church.

After the service a public luncheon was held in a large tent erected in a meadow at the back of the vicarage. A good company attended, and the Archbishop proposed the health of the Vicar. He acknowledged the compliment in these words :

“MY LORD ARCHBISHOP, LADIES, AND GENTLEMEN,—

“I rise to thank you for the kind way in which you have received the toast of my health, and it is with peculiar satisfaction that I do so. It appears to me that you desire under such an act to pay some token of approval to all those who have carried on this urgent and good work. Their names are many, and all have been, I can well believe, actuated by some high and exalted motive. The efforts that personally fell to my lot deserve no notice; but the persevering and energetic labours of the laity of this and other parishes do require acknowledgment. When we find such a case as ours was a few years ago, undertaken and carried out with earnest decision, it must be very gratifying to every one who loves the pure and holy Church to which we belong. We have personally found so much loveliness and beauty in her fellowship, we have enjoyed so many blessings in her ordinances, it must be that we rejoice to sound her praises so that others may find similar security and peace. Thus the restoration of the outer fabric may become a means whereby the spiritual temple shall receive embellishment and enlargement. Let us earnestly desire that it may be so in Minster; and that the Abbey Church in time to come may not only be the glory of the Isle of Sheppey, but a source whence shall flow the highest blessings to the sons of Sheppey.”

Ven. Archdeacon Harrison spoke, and various toasts were given, the Archbishop returning thanks for the vote that was passed to him for visiting the Isle of Sheppey on the occasion, and for his sermon.

At 7.30 there was evening service, and a sermon by the Rev. J. Blomefield, Vicar of All Saints', Knightsbridge.

The special services were continued for several days :

June 11th.—Rev. F. T. Bramston, M.A., Layham, Suffolk.

<i>Trinity</i>	{	Morning, 10.30 : Rev. F. T. Bramston, M.A.
<i>Sunday,</i>		Afternoon, 3 : Rev. F. T. Bramston, M.A.
<i>June 12th.</i>		Evening, 6.30 : Rev. W. Bramston, M.A., Vicar.

After Morning Prayer the Holy Communion was administered. During the afternoon service the Sacrament of Baptism was administered.

June 13th.—Rev. F. T. Bramston, M.A.

„ *14th.*—Rev. E. Forbes, M.A., Vicar of Clevedon, Somerset.

„ *15th.*—Rev. G. Beardsworth, M.A., Vicar of Selling.

„ *16th.*—Rev. J. S. Owen, Vicar of St. Paul's, Sheerness.

The services closed with the *Te Deum*. They were previously commended to the people by the following letter :

“MY FELLOW-PARISHIONERS,—

“I ask your prayers on behalf of these efforts for the spiritual good of our parish. May an earnest thirst for the good things be granted to us, and words of season put into the mouths of the preachers to speak to us. May all of us experience some blessing, and obtain grace to live more near to the example of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, resting on His merits and mediation alone for our eternal salvation. Pray for us, and none will be without blessing.

“I am, your Friend and Pastor,

“WILLIAM BRAMSTON.”

PULPIT, LECTERN, AND COMMUNION RAILINGS.

The lectern was erected as a memorial to Mr. E. C. Turmine, and has inscribed on it these words :

IN MEMORY OF

EDWARD CHARLES TURMINE,

Churchwarden of the Abbey Church A.D. 1875–1884. Born
May 23, 1827. Died September 16, 1884.

This Memorial was presented to this Church by some of his attached friends, with the teachers and children of Holy Trinity Schools, Sheerness, of which he was Manager and Treasurer 1871–1884.

MINSTER-IN-SHEPPEY, 1885.*

The pulpit was obtained from a church at Fulham for a small sum, and the railings from All Saints', Knightsbridge. The total cost was £40 18s. 5d.

The communion table, throne chairs, and stools, and beautiful kneeling cushion of needlework were presented by the vicar and congregation of All Saints', Knightsbridge. The kneeling cushion was made by ladies there for that church, and on its alteration was given to us.

DEDICATION OF THE NEW ORGAN.

Our history would not be complete without a few words about the new organ, which was dedicated on Tuesday, November 22, 1887. This day was remarkably appropriate, for it was St. Cecilia's Day. The Rev. Dr. Barlow and the Rev. H. Venn were the preachers, at three and seven o'clock. The day was made a day of rejoicing in the village, and the ringers rang a peal before and after the services. The total cost was £122 18s. 10d., which was all defrayed by voluntary donations from parishioners and friends.

NEW CHURCHYARD.

An effort was made a few years ago to obtain a piece of land for the burial of our dead, but with no success. After repeated efforts, at length a suitable piece was obtained, and at a cost of about £250 secured for the perpetual use of the parish of Minster. It is one and a half acres in extent, and most admirably suited for its purpose, as it consists of the gravel deposit on the top of the London clay of which the island is so rich. The London clay has not been reached for any burial at present, and in most places could not be found till ten or twelve feet had been dug. The difficulties in securing a suitable piece of land were many and great, and efforts in opposition were made by various persons. At the present time there is a debt of £56 on the ground, which one can well believe will be cleared off before long. In connection with the consecration, the late Archbishop of Canterbury wrote as follows:

“ADDINGTON PARK, CROYDON, *January 4, 1896.*

“MY DEAR MR. BRAMSTON,—I think you have managed extremely well to have overcome all difficulties by tact and perseverance in securing your burial-ground. I wish I could come to you for its consecration; but the short space between the meeting of Parliament, and Easter, crowds all the en-

gements even now, and I am afraid I have no chance of coming. But I will come and see Minster and more of Sheppey as soon as I can.

“Sincerely yours,
“E. CANTUAR.”

We know how this wish was never carried out, and the diocese suddenly lost its Archbishop, and the people of England one of their greatest men. The ground was consecrated by the Lord Bishop of Dover, in the presence of a large assembly of persons, comprising all the chief people of the island.

CHAPTER VIII.

ENDOWMENT OF MINSTER.

IT would be interesting to many if we were to give some account of the income of the Abbey in early times. We can merely state in this brief history that at the time of the dissolution of the Abbey the vicar of the parish lived in the Gate House, obtained his living from the Abbey buttery and kitchen, and had £3 16s. 8d. for income.

King Henry VIII. sold the tithe to Sir Thomas Cheyne, K.G. ; and with a purpose, doubtless, of benefiting this isolated and at that time important parish, made a proviso that the vicar should receive £40 a year. This was at that time a third of the tithe, and equal in the present day to £800 a year.

Now centuries passed away, and the living was left with this sum, which became so decreased in value that it was utterly insufficient even to sustain life. In consequence a parliamentary grant of £30 a year was made, and the living became of the value of £70 a year. This sum is quite insufficient for the ordinary expenses of a clergyman who is a bachelor; but with such an income as this, what could a married man do? I must leave my lady readers to try and make some calculation as to how they would manage.

But to proceed. In 1877 the living was of the value of £70 a year, with fees which were supposed to reach £26 a year. There was a debt on the Vicarage House of £157, and the diocesan surveyor stated in his official report that if £500 were spent on the house he would not pass it. Thus it was decided that in 1878 a fund should be started towards the permanent increase in the endowment of the living, and a list of the donations given is printed at the close of the chapter. Now of this sum, £702 10s., there was

invested, April 3, 1879, in the 3 per cent. Consols, the sum of £600 sterling, purchasing at that date £616 3s. 6d. £100 was paid to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners on March 24, 1879; and on receipt of this sum, the late Archbishop of Canterbury wrote the following letter:

“HOUSE OF LORDS, *March* 10, 1879.

“MY DEAR MR. BRAMSTON,—I am glad to inform you that the Ecclesiastical Commissioners have voted an annuity of £3 6s. 8d. to meet the benefaction of £100 to Minster.

“Yours very truly,
“A. C. CANTUAR.”

We ought not to forget to state that about this time the Ecclesiastical Commissioners bought the tithe of Minster, and so became rectors of the parish. There were three gentlemen who now especially exerted themselves to render the living of Minster of better value. The Earl of Chichester, the Earl of Harrowby, and Sir Henry Peek used their influence, and obtained a grant towards the endowment from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners of £100 a year. It is not necessary to record the efforts they made for this purpose; but it is, to say the result of their efforts.

Some years later some property belonging to the living of Minster fell into the hands of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, and they found they were able with it to raise the living again by £100 a year. This property had for a long period, through a mistake, been used for other purposes; but it was clearly shown that the Vicar of Minster, Isle of Sheppey, and his successors were entitled to possess it.

Thus now the living of Minster-in-Sheppey is of sufficient value to render the clergyman free from pecuniary cares. The sum of Consols mentioned above has since been paid into Queen Anne's Bounty by the trustees, Rev. W. Bramston and E. C. Turmine, Esq. They have invested it in other funds that pay a slightly better dividend.

MINSTER-IN-SHEPPEY ENDOWMENT FUND.

The living of the parish of Minster was of the annual value of £70 per year, and in 1878 the following donations were granted to form a fund for its permanent increase:

Subscriptions to Minster Endowment Fund.

	£	s.	d.
John Stirling, Esq.	10	0	0
J. Aldridge, Esq.	10	10	0
E. Twopeny, Esq.	10	0	0
Miss Twopeny	10	0	0
Captain Hilton	10	0	0
Rev. E. Hollond (Annual payments)			
J. R. Edmonds, Esq., Charnwood House, Sileby, Loughborough	5	0	0
W. L. Holford, Esq.	50	0	0
Mrs. Furse	10	0	0
Rev. E. Forbes	5	0	0
Rev. W. H. G. Mann	2	0	0
Lady Louisa Percy	100	0	0
Ven. Archdeacon Harrison	20	0	0
J. S. Morgan, Esq.	100	0	0
Rev. Anthony Crowdy	5	0	0
Rev. T. Huntley Greene	10	0	0
Lord Harris	50	0	0
R. C. L. Bevan, Esq.	10	0	0
Col. Baldock, R.A.	50	0	0
James Lake, Esq.	50	0	0
Earl Howe	5	0	0
R. Valpy, Esq., and Mrs. Valpy	20	0	0
J. L. Willett, Esq.	30	0	0
Canterbury Diocesan Church Building Society	100	0	0
Lady Macarthur	5	0	0
W. T. Hibbert, Esq.	10	0	0
Admiral Brandreth, R.N.	3	0	0
	£690	10	0
Rev. C. Whichcote (or for Restoration Fund)	2	0	0
E. C. Turmine, Esq.	10	0	0
	£702	10	0

£600 was invested on April 2, 1879, by Mr. Hartridge, in
3% Consols, £616 3s. 6d.

£100 (Diocesan) was paid to Ecclesiastical Commissioners
account at bank by Rev. Walter Flower on March 24,
1879.

The Commissioners granted an annuity of £3 6s. 8d. to meet
it on March 10, 1879.

CHAPTER IX.

LIST OF SUBSCRIBERS TO RESTORATION FUND.

	£	s.	d.
HER MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY THE QUEEN	500	0	0
Her Imperial and Royal Highness the Duchess of Edinburgh	10	0	0
The Most Rev. His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury	10	0	0
C. H. Freshfield, Esq., M.P.	5	0	0
Dr. Payne, late Chaplain of Dockyard, Sheerness	20	0	0
The late R. Palmer, Esq. (Churchwarden) and Mrs. Palmer	50	0	0
The late E. C. Turmine, Esq. (Churchwarden)	50	0	0
H. Turmine, Esq.	5	0	0
Mr. D. Prosser, Sheerness	10	0	0
Mr. Pannell, Sheerness	3	3	0
T. J. Rawnsley, Esq.	1	0	0
Major Maule, R.A.	2	0	0
Rev. F. T. Bramston, Suffolk	5	0	0
Rev. J. S. Owen, late of St. Paul's, Sheerness	5	0	0
A Parishioner, Sheerness	5	0	0
Mrs. Fife, Sheerness	1	0	0
A friend, per G. Payne, jun., Esq.	1	2	6
Edward Jarrett, late Clerk to Parish Church	0	5	0
Rev. W. Bramston, Vicar	10	0	0
A Parishioner, Minster	0	10	0
Rev. G. R. Baker, Newington Vicarage, Sittingbourne	5	0	0
Mr. T. Logan, late of "Royal Oak"	0	10	0
The late Mrs. Norris and Daughter, Eastend Lane	0	5	0
The late Mr. William Green, Minster	0	5	0
Concert at Eastchurch	0	17	6
Two small sums	0	3	0
The late Rev. W. R. Lyon Bennett, Cheshire	1	1	0
The late W. S. Holford, Esq.	20	0	0
The late Mr. Crampton, Grove Park, Chiswick	5	0	0
Mr. Ingleton, Minster	10	0	0
Mr. and Mrs. Waithman (Watford)	1	1	0
The late Mr. Poole, Sheerness	1	1	0
The late Mr. G. Elliott, Sheerness	1	0	0
Mr. Coultrip, Scocles, Minster	1	1	0
Mr. Payne, Borstal Lodge, Minster	1	0	0
The late Mr. John Cole, Sheerness	1	1	0

	£	s.	d.
Mr. Samuel Cole, Sheerness	0	10	6
Col. Baldock, R.A., Weymouth	10	0	0
J. Copland, Esq., and Mrs. Copland, Sheerness	20	0	0
Miss Muschamp, Clifton	0	10	0
Collection in Church, June 9, 1878	0	13	4
Mr. George Taylor, Sheerness	0	10	0
Lieutenant and Mrs. Harrison	5	0	0
Right Hon. Viscount Cranbrook	5	0	0
Mr. T. A. Simmons, Sheerness	5	0	0
Mr. Burnet, Sheerness	1	1	0
Mr. J. Hancock, Sheerness	0	5	0
Admiral and Misses Chads	5	0	0
Collection at Minster Church, April 7, 1878	7	5	8
Collection at Sheerness Meeting	2	15	8
Rev. E. A. Alderson, Garrison, Sheerness	2	2	0
Mr. Green, Coastguard Officer, Eastend Lane	0	5	0
Mr. W. H. Shrubsole, Sheerness	1	1	0
Mr. H. Sotham, H.M. Dockyard	1	1	0
James Lake, Esq., Newlands	50	0	0
Right Hon. Earl Sydney	5	0	0
Collection on July 14, 1878, at Minster	0	11	2
Sir W. King Hall, collected by Mrs. Brandreth	5	0	0
The Ven. Archdeacon Harrison	5	0	0
Two small sums	0	4	0
Sheppy Union Girls	0	1	2
A Lady (Wimbledon)	0	5	0
Captain Soames, R.A.	2	0	0
Miss L. Brown, Titsey	1	0	0
Collection at Dockyard Church, per Rev. S. W. Payne, LL.D.	4	0	0
Mr. T. W. Merry, Kennington	0	5	0
The late Rev. W. H. Dyson, Sittingbourne	5	0	0
The Lords of the Admiralty	20	0	0
Rev. F. W. de Castro, Arley Rectory, Warwickshire	2	0	0
The late Rev. T. Huntley Greene, Knightsbridge	3	0	0
The late Mrs. T. Huntley Greene, Knightsbridge	2	0	0
The late Sir T. Brandreth	5	0	0
Freewill Offerings in Church Box, opened August 30, 1878	3	10	3
Old Minster Boy	0	5	0
Eight small sums	0	14	6
G. Webb, Esq. Sittingbourne	10	10	0
W. Rowe & Co.	5	0	0
X. Z., per Rev. W. Bramston	5	0	0
Lieut.-Colonel F. Garratt	5	0	0
A Friend to the Church	1	0	0
The Misses Whittle (Rochester)	1	1	0
H. J. S.	0	5	6
Rev. W. F. H. Garratt, Yokohama, Japan	5	0	0
The late Rev. Canon Riddell, Rector of Harrietsham	1	1	0
<i>Collected by the late Mrs. T. Huntley Greene :</i>			
Lieut.-Colonel Dawson Greene	2	2	0

	£	s.	d.
<i>Collected by the late Mrs. T. Huntley Greene (continued):</i>			
Mr. and Hon. Mrs. Stuart	2	0	0
Mrs. Greene (Lancaster)	3	0	0
The Chapter of St. Katherine's Hospital	50	0	0
Rev. F. H. Annesley	0	5	0
The late Miss Foveaux, Kilburn	2	0	0
The late Mrs. Slaney, Ennismore Gardens, Knightsbridge	1	1	0
The late J. Aldridge, Esq., and Family, Prince's Gate, Knightsbridge	6	0	0
E. F. Davies, Esq., St. Peter's, Thanet	2	2	0
<i>Collected by Miss H. C. Garratt:</i>			
The late Miss Garratt	1	1	0
Miss H. C. Garratt	1	1	0
W. M. Foster Melliar, Esq.	1	0	0
Rev. S. Garratt	0	10	0
Mrs. Castle	1	0	0
Miss A. Chinery	0	10	0
Captain W. S. Bradley, R.N.	0	5	0
S. E. L.	0	5	0
Eight small sums	0	16	6
The Misses Fleming	0	10	0
Mrs. R. Foster	0	2	6
Mr. J. R. Brett, Sheerness	3	3	0
Lady Macarthur, Knightsbridge	2	2	0
Rev. Geo. Despard, Kilburn	1	1	0
Mrs. Priest, Kilburn	0	5	0
The late Rev. Canon Carus, Winchester	1	1	0
Collection at Minster, November 10, 1878	1	4	9
<i>Per E. C. Turmine, Esq.:</i>			
Mrs. H. Warton	10	0	0
Miss Wharton	10	0	0
Miss Attwater	1	1	0
A Friend	1	0	0
Collected by Miss Eyre	0	13	6
<i>Collected by Lady Brandreth:</i>			
Dowager Lady Walker	0	10	0
Mr. Colvin	1	1	0
Captain Lethbridge	1	0	0
Mrs. Gordon	0	10	0
Lady Walker	0	10	0
Mrs. Frank	0	5	0
Mr. Cowper Coles	1	0	0
Captain O'Malley	0	6	0
Mr. Pitcairn	0	5	0
Miss Cowen	1	0	0
Miss Corrie	0	10	0
Miss H. F. Corrie	0	10	0
Mrs. Carr	0	10	0
Per Captain Daltrie, R.A.	0	15	0
Miss Elwes	0	10	0

	£	s.	d.
<i>Collected by Lady Brandreth (continued):</i>			
Major Phipps	1	0	0
Hon. Mrs. Foley	1	0	0
Mrs. Errington	0	5	0
Mrs. Newton	1	0	0
Miss Newton	0	10	0
Mrs. Goschen	0	5	0
Four small sums	0	8	0
Collections at Harvest Festival (Two Sundays)	9	1	11
The late Miss Twopeny	3	0	0
The late E. Twopeny, Esq.	5	0	0
The late Rev. G. B. Moore	20	0	0
The late Mr. Flunder, Builder, Sheerness	1	0	0
Mr. E. Webb, Eastchurch	1	0	0
Collected by Miss Stallwood in twenty-one small sums	1	1	0
Rev. F. T. Scott, Hartlip Vicarage	2	0	0
<i>Collected by Miss C. Ingleton:</i>			
Mr. Tailford	0	5	0
Mr. A. J. Bobby	0	5	0
Four small sums	0	6	6
Friend at Finchley, per Miss Lesser, Sheerness	1	0	0
Friends at Sevenoaks, per ditto	0	10	0
The Right Hon. Earl Stanhope	5	0	0
R. C. L. Bevan, Esq., Knightsbridge	10	0	0
Miss H. R. Riddell, Knightsbridge	5	0	0
Mrs. Lee, Kilburn	0	5	0
The late Rev. J. Garwood, Kilburn	1	0	0
Mrs. Farmer, Kilburn	1	1	0
Mrs. Lavie and Miss Hay, Kilburn	1	11	6
Mrs. Handley O'Farrell, per Miss Hay	0	10	0
Mrs. Parminter, per Miss Hay	0	10	0
Hon. Miss Trefusis, Knightsbridge	0	5	0
Rev. Canon Hilton, Milstead	10	0	0
Two small sums	0	7	4
F. Paul, per E. C. Turmine, Esq.	0	12	0
War Office	50	0	0
The late Rev. W. H. G. Mann, Knightsbridge	1	0	0
<i>Collected by Miss Lena Porter, Kilburn:</i>			
P. K. P.	0	5	0
Mrs. J. Davies	0	5	0
Edward Walter Haines, Esq.	0	5	0
J. B.	0	5	0
W. G. B.	0	5	0
C. P. and E. P.	0	10	0
W. Barlow, Esq.	0	5	0
Miss Rippon	1	1	0
Dr. and Mrs. Cleveland	0	5	0
H. Ince, Esq.	0	5	0
G. Tidcombe, Esq.	0	5	0
Twenty-four small sums	1	15	6

	£	s.	d.
T. Dunn, Esq., Knightsbridge	10	10	0
Collection at Minster, April 13, 1879	1	8	2
Mrs. Harris, Kilburn	0	10	0
The late E. Barlow, Esq., Knightsbridge	5	5	0
Twenty-five small sums, per Miss Everett, Knightsbridge	1	5	0
Miss Davies, Croydon	0	10	0
Mrs. Delamain, Knightsbridge	0	10	0
The late Mrs. Channon, Knightsbridge	1	1	0
A. G. Sandeman, Esq., Knightsbridge	5	0	0
The late J. S. Morgan, Esq., Knightsbridge	10	0	0
Sermons at All Saints' Church, Knightsbridge	42	12	1
Miss Morgan and Friends	1	10	6
Captain Benson, Kilburn	1	1	0
A. Moore, Esq., Kilburn	1	1	0
N. I. V., Eastbourne, per Rev. W. Bramston	100	0	0
Rev. F. A. Buxton, Knightsbridge	2	0	0
The Hon. Miss Baring, Knightsbridge	10	0	0
Miss Sholto Scott Douglas, Knightsbridge	2	0	0
W. T. Hibbert, Esq., Knightsbridge	5	0	0
A Friend, Knightsbridge, per Rev. W. Bramston	2	0	0
Mrs. Stephenson, Ennismore Gardens, Knightsbridge	1	0	0
Collection at Minster Church, June 8, 1879	1	1	11
The Hon. Miss Portman	2	0	0
E. W. Brightman, Esq.	3	3	0
Mr. Hawes, Minster	0	10	0
R. Palmer, Esq.	5	0	0
W. McKee, Esq.	1	1	0
Miss Payne, collected by	0	12	0
Collection at Minster Church, July 13, 1879	0	18	10
The late Mr. H. Jacobs, Sheerness	10	0	0
Collection at Minster Church, August 10, 1879	1	0	5
<i>Per Mr. Sotham :</i>			
Miss Randall	1	0	0
Mrs. Hazell	0	10	6
Miss Sotham	0	10	0
Small sums	0	7	0
Freewill Offerings in Box at Minster, September 5, 1879	3	2	4
Rev. J. S. Selwyn, Pluckley Rectory	2	2	0
Rev. Canon Robertson, Canterbury	2	2	0
Earl Amherst, Montreal, Sevenoaks	5	0	0
Messrs. T. and J. Hollingworth, Maidstone	10	0	0
Three small sums	0	7	0
Miss Bellamy, King's Lynn	5	0	0
The Very Rev. the Dean of Canterbury	2	2	0
Rev. Canon Jeffreys, Canterbury	5	0	0
Rev. M. Onslow, East Peckham	3	0	0
Collection at Minster, Harvest Festival, October 19	2	5	3
Ditto, ditto, October 16	2	5	9
Chas. Saunderson, Esq., Kilburn	5	0	0
A. W. Howe, Esq., Sheerness	3	3	0

	£	s.	d.
E. Homewood, Esq., Upton, Tunstall, Sittingbourne	5	0	0
R. Alexander, Esq., Beckenham	1	0	0
Matthew Bell, Esq., J.P., Bourne Park, Canterbury	2	0	0
Sale of <i>Hand and Heart</i> , to December, 1879	1	1	10
Messrs. Hughes, Hooker, Buttenshaw & Thunder	5	0	0
Chas. Goding, Esq., Knightsbridge	10	0	0
F. G. B. Dyne, Esq., Brighton	10	0	0
F. Bossey, Esq., Redhill	1	0	0
J. Rayner, Esq., Bury St. Edmunds	1	1	0
Diocesan Church Building Society	150	0	0
Reading and Concert at Minster, February 24, 1880	4	15	0
Three small sums	0	7	6
Miss Scott Douglas, Knightsbridge (2nd donation)	2	0	0
J. Hall, Esq., Queenborough	1	1	0
Rev. W. Haydon, Bapchild, Sittingbourne	3	3	0
<i>Collected by Miss Kirkby :</i>			
Miss Cape, Stanwix, Carlisle	5	0	0
Rev. J. G. Bourne, Broome Rectory	3	3	0
Rev. R. Whiston, Rochester	1	1	0
Rev. Canon Clayton, Stanhope Rectory	1	1	0
J. S. Cape, Esq., Totnes	1	1	0
Mrs. C. P. Bellamy, Bayswater	1	0	0
Mrs. Cape, Redhill	0	10	0
Misses Cape, Redhill	0	10	0
Mrs. Haynes, Maidstone	0	10	0
Miss Haynes, Maidstone	0	10	0
Misses Good, Putney	0	10	0
Mrs. Pierce, Islington	0	10	0
Five small sums	1	2	6
Miss Kirkby	2	2	0
Concert at Minster, March 30, 1880	1	4	3
Incorporated Church Building Society	100	0	0
Rev. C. G. R. Birch, Brancaster Rectory	1	0	0
Box opened July 7, 1880	1	3	9
F. T. Belsey, Esq., Rochester	0	10	0
Captain Nicholson, R.N.	1	0	0
G. Winch, Esq., Chatham	1	1	0
Mrs. Burren, Canterbury	1	0	0
Concert February 24, 1880 (additional)	0	6	0
Misses Hunt, Rutland Gate	4	0	0
<i>Collected by Lieut. Edwards, R.A. :</i>			
Rev. E. J. Edwards	0	10	0
From a Lady	0	10	0
Five small sums	0	12	6
J. Park Harrison, Esq.	3	0	0
Collection at Minster Church Harvest Festival, 1880	4	16	0
F. Grayling, jun., Esq., Sittingbourne	1	1	0
Mrs. Birch, Knightsbridge	1	0	0
Mrs. Reynard, Harrogate	5	0	0
Box opened October 21, 1880	1	3	9

	£	s.	d.
Collected at Mrs. T. M. Taylor's Wedding by Mr. Tucker	1	0	2
A Friend at Minster	0	10	0
Box opened November 22, 1880, on leaving the North Church	0	5	3
Sale of <i>Hand and Heart</i> , to December, 1880	7	12	10
Four small sums	0	8	3
Interest for Money on Deposit (London and County Bank)	14	15	11
Sir Claude Buckle, Knightsbridge	5	0	0
Trinity House, Elder Brethren of	25	0	0
Mrs. E. Baker, Herne Hill, per Mr. Prosser (stamps)	0	19	6
<i>Collected by Mr. W. E. Munn, Sheerness-on-Sea :</i>			
W. E. Munn	0	5	0
W. and H. Sutton	0	10	0
Messrs. B. H. Joseph & Co.	0	10	0
Ten small sums	0	17	0
<i>Collected by Mr. S. Blunt, Stockwell :</i>			
F. Webb	0	5	0
Fourteen small sums	0	16	0
W. Needham, Esq., Knightsbridge	2	0	0
Interest per P.O. Savings Bank in 1880	1	13	6
Lecture by Mr. T. Crampton at Minster, April 19, 1881	1	6	0
Ditto at Eastchurch, April 20,	1	12	0
Rev. C. Hill, Culworth Rectory, Banbury	1	1	0
Rev. R. B. Wright, Frinsted Rectory, Sittingbourne	3	0	0
Mr. J. T. French, Sheerness	1	1	0
<i>Collected by Miss Hook, Minster :</i>			
W. Page	0	5	0
J. Rogers	0	5	0
S. S. South	0	5	0
Four small sums	0	9	0
Mr. Griffiths, Sheerness	1	0	0
Rev. Beauchamp St. John Tyrwhitt, Vicar of Upchurch	2	0	0
The Lady Louisa Percy, Knightsbridge	10	0	0
Miss Kirkby, Southampton	6	0	0
Box emptied May 27, 1881	0	8	0
Mrs. Priest, Kilburn (2nd donation)	0	10	0
Dr. Bland, Minster, per E. C. Turmine, Esq.	5	0	0
J. R. Edmonds, Esq., Sileby, Loughborough	2	2	0
Miss Winch, London	1	0	0
Rev. W. H. Jones, Sculthorpe Rectory, Norfolk	7	7	0
Lieut.-Colonel Sim, R.E.	5	0	0
Collected by Mrs. Kell, Knightsbridge	0	8	0
Collection at Minster at Re-opening of Abbey Church	43	15	2
Collection at Special Services	5	16	0
Profit of Public Tea	1	4	2
Sale of Temporary Font	0	15	0
<i>Collected by Miss A. Nugent :</i>			
Rev. E. A. Williams	1	1	0
E. A. Lang, Esq.	1	0	0
Major C. Pennell	0	10	0
W. B. R.	0	5	0

	£	s.	d.
<i>Collected by Miss A. Nugent (continued):</i>			
Miss Stewart	0	5	0
Mrs. Lonnon	0	5	0
A Friend	0	5	0
Mrs. W. A. Webb	0	5	0
Miss Nugent	0	5	0
Mrs. Roach	0	5	0
Mrs. Green	0	5	0
Mr. A. Bastard	0	5	0
Mr. Flynn	0	5	0
Mr. Astal	0	5	0
Mrs. Bastard	0	6	0
Seventy-two small sums	4	19	3
HER MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY THE QUEEN (2nd donation).	150	0	0
Sir E. J. Reed, M.P.	10	0	0
Master Henry William Knight	0	10	6
Collected by Miss Hay, Kilburn	1	0	0
Mrs. Burren, Canterbury	1	0	0
Collected by Mrs. Burren, Canterbury	0	15	6
Mrs. Mudge	1	0	0
Miss Creasy, per E. C. Turmine, Esq.	1	0	0
Rev. R. Nimmo, the late, per E. C. Turmine, Esq.	0	10	0
J. B. Moorman, Esq., per ditto	0	10	0
<i>Collected by Mrs. Tanner, St. Nicholas-at-Wade:</i>			
Miss Fanny Tanner	3	0	0
Mrs. Willett	1	2	9
Rev. W. A. Tanner	1	1	0
Aug. B. Hanson, Esq., Sierra Leone	1	1	0
A. Akers-Douglas, Esq., M.P.	10	0	0
Collected by Mrs. Fife	0	13	0
<i>Collected by Mr. A. W. Howe, Sheerness:</i>			
The late Sir T. Kirkpatrick	1	1	0
Fr. Oliver, R.N.	0	10	0
Small sums	0	7	6
W. S. Holford, Esq. (2nd donation)	5	0	0
Mrs. Whichcote, Knightsbridge	1	9	0
Perceval Smith, Esq., Whitehall	2	0	0
Rev. T. Cobb, Stockbury Vicarage	1	1	0
The late Mr. W. Brisley, Sheerness	1	1	0
Interest P. O. Savings Bank, 1881	3	2	6
Rev. T. Huntley Greene (2nd donation)	5	0	0
War Office (2nd donation)	50	0	0
Admiralty (2nd donation)	20	0	0
G. Payne, jun., Esq., Sittingbourne	5	0	0
Miss Foveaux, Kilburn	2	0	0
J. Aldridge, Esq., Knightsbridge (2 donation).	1	0	0
J. Baker, Esq., Kilburn	1	1	0
Mrs. Meynell, Knightsbridge	1	0	0
The Chapter of St. Katherine's Hospital (2nd donation)	10	0	0
Collected by Mrs. Hurlow, Sheerness	0	5	0

	£	s.	d.
"Sale of Work" in London	24	18	2
Sale of <i>Hand and Heart</i> , to 1882	4	3	10
Ditto, per E. C. Turmine, Esq.	1	5	0
<i>Collected by Mrs. Ingleton, Ward's Farm :</i>			
Jos. Hall, Esq.	1	1	0
Small sums	0	13	0
Sale of Mr. Crampton's Song	0	6	0
Collected by J. Rhind, Esq., Kilburn	6	6	0
Collected by Mr. Gardler	0	5	8
Sale of Music	0	2	6
Interest P. O. Savings Bank, 1882	4	2	2
Dr. Arrol, Sheerness	2	2	0
Collection at Second Anniversary	3	14	9
Anonymous, Bristol	0	2	6
Collected by Miss Atcheson, Kilburn	1	0	0
Vice-Admiral Bridges Rice, C.B.	2	0	0
From a sale of a Stone	0	15	0
Box in the Church, 1881	5	8	10
" " 1882	1	14	10
" " 1883	1	3	5
Freewill Offerings from June to December, 1881	17	18	4
Ditto, from June, 1882, to December, 1883	45	10	2
J. Rhind, Esq., Kilburn	1	0	0
Proceeds of Bazaar, per Mrs. Percival Smith	3	3	0
T. Crampton, Esq., Chiswick (2nd donation)	1	1	0
A Friend, per Rev. W. Bramston	1	1	0
A Friend, per E. C. Turmine, Esq.	1	0	0
Miss Elizabeth Rosanna Knight	0	10	6
Lieut. F. Hay Chapman, R.N.	2	0	0
Isaac Braithwaite, Esq.	5	0	0
J. D. Allcroft, Esq.	10	0	0
Rev. W. Bramston (2nd donation)	2	2	0
E. C. Turmine, Esq. (2nd donation)	2	2	0
J. Copland, Esq. (2nd donation)	1	1	0
Diocesan Society (2nd donation)	50	0	0
Sale of photographs	18	7	4
Sale of Histories	3	3	0
Anonymous donation	0	10	0
G. W. Noll, Esq., R.N.	0	5	0
Collections at Abbey Church	36	0	2
E. W. Brightman, Esq.	1	1	0
Mr. John Day	0	10	0
Mr. George Filmer	0	5	0
Mr. James Ingleton (2nd donation)	0	5	0
G. Webb, Esq. (2nd donation)	1	0	0
Colonel Baldock, R.A. (2nd donation)	1	1	0
Mr. Samuel Sparks	0	10	0
Mr. A. Coultrip	0	10	0
Mr. W. Whitehead	0	5	0
Mr. W. Hawes	0	5	0

	£	s.	d.
Nine half-crowns	1	2	6
Small sums	0	5	0
J. W. Janson, Esq.	0	10	0
A. Mills, Esq., Hyde Park Gardens	1	1	0
W. Irving Hare, Esq.	1	0	0
Interest at Post Office	1	18	11
Rector's Donation	675	0	0
Total of all donations	£3,391	9	2

TOTAL COST OF RESTORATION.

	£	s.	d.
Contractor	3,010	16	8
Architect	151	19	0
Various accounts	228	13	6
	£3,391	9	2

A COMPLETE LIST OF VICARS FOR THE LAST 345 YEARS.

The Registers begin in August, A.D. 1568, but the original Register of that early date has been lost; but the Rev. Joseph Daws, who was vicar in A.D. 1586, carefully copied it, and all that is left of this copy has his signature on each page with the names of two witnesses, who certify to its accuracy.

We have a churchwarden's account for A.D. 1628. It may be well to notice that during the Commonwealth there are two names in the Registers; but it is doubtful whether Samuel Carden was vicar, or only appointed to be Registrar of Marriages. From his writing and spelling he would appear to have been an illiterate man.

The names of the several Vicars of the Parish of Minster, in the Isle of Sheppey, from the year 1559, as appear by the old and new Registers of the said Parish.

The Rev. Sir John Sherers	1559
The Rev. Sir Christopher Eshener	1561
The Rev. Lawrence Collinson	1576
The Rev. Andrew Carre	1581
The Rev. Joseph Daws, A.M.	1586
The Rev. Jeremiah Collinson	1604
The Rev. James Badnore	1613
The Rev. Thomas Mill	1618
The Rev. Theophily Whyte	1623
The Rev. John Hayward	1645
The Rev. Matthew Smyth, A.M., Coll. Mag., Ox.	1653
The Rev. Samuel Carden	1653
The Rev. Richard Hurt, A.M., Coll. Pemb., Ox.	1659
The Rev. Samuel Symmonds, Oriel Coll., Ox.	1661
The Rev. Thomas Brockbank	1664
The Rev. John Goodyer, A.M.	1704
The Rev. John Sanders	1715
The Rev. Richard Tysoe, A.M., Coll. Jesus, Camb.	1719
The Rev. Joseph Murthwaite	1744

List of Vicars (continued).

The Rev. Egerton Leigh, LL.S., Emman. Coll., Camb. .	1758
The Rev. W. P. Menzies, A.M., Coll. Univ., Ox. . .	1788
The Rev. Henry Turmine, M.A., E. Coll. Sid. Sus., Cantab.	1819
The Rev. R. C. Willis, D.D., E. Coll. Univ., Ox. . .	1847
The Rev. W. Bramston, A.M., E. Coll., Div. Pet., Cantab.	1878

MINSTER ABBEY CHURCH DIAMOND JUBILEE,
ISLE OF SHEPPEY, KENT.

At a Vestry Meeting held in the Abbey Church, a committee was appointed to carry out some memorial of the Diamond Jubilee in this Church.

The fact that it is the oldest Abbey Church—showing some of the work of Queen Sexburga, A.D. 664, and that this year is the 1,300th anniversary of the Baptism in the Swale of 10,000 Kentish people—makes it exceedingly appropriate that the Diamond Jubilee of our Gracious Queen should be celebrated by some permanent work.

The Church has been restored by the generosity of many at a cost of nearly £4,000. It seems, then, best to place a Stained Glass Window, with suitable inscription, and a design representing Queen Sexburga. Thus the foundress and Queen of Kent will be joined with our memorial of Her Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria.

Donations are requested from all friends of Minster-in-Sheppey—and the cost is likely to reach Forty Guineas—and may be sent to any member of the committee.

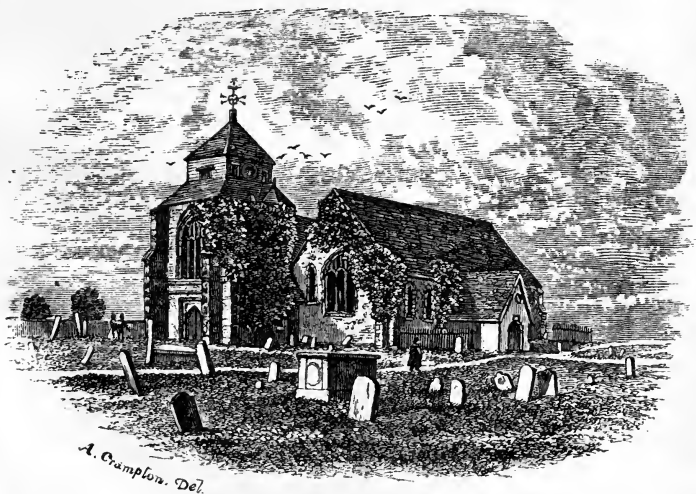
Should our friends answer our appeal so as to exceed that sum, other advantageous works would be carried out.

The vicar, churchwardens, and Perceval A. Smith, Esq., Sheppey Court, Minster, Sheerness, are the committee, with C. Farnell Brown, Esq., Cheyney Rock Villas, Sheerness, as Hon. Secretary.

A meeting was held at the Vicarage in October, 1897, when the vicar presided, and Dr. Julius Cæsar, Perceval A. Smith, Esq., and C. Farnell Brown, Esq., were present. The vicar stated

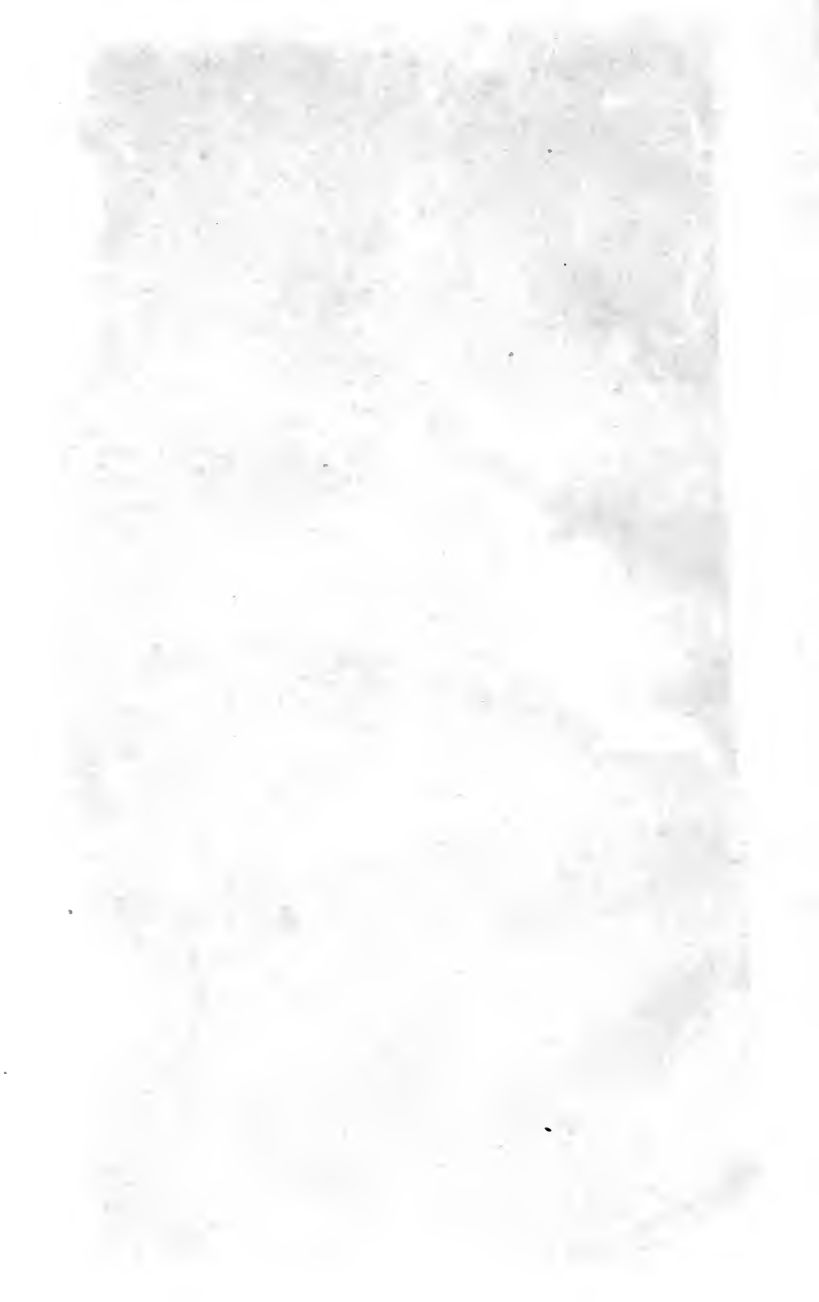
that he had seen the eminent architect Mr. Beresford Pite, who had recommended Messrs. Shrigley & Hunt as most likely to carry out the work to every one's satisfaction. They had made a drawing, which was shown at the meeting, which would cost over sixty guineas; but since we had only thirty-three pounds in hand, it was considered better to select a simpler treatment, which would be suitable and attractive, unless some friend came forward with a special donation.

On Sunday afternoon, January 9, 1898, the window was unveiled by Miss Ethel Maxted, in the presence of a large congregation. The Vicar preached from Psalm lxxxiv. 10, and a collection of £2 4s. 8d. was made. The window has pleased all the subscribers. It represents the Queen standing in the open field wearing her crown, with her head surrounded with the nimbus as patron saint. She holds a crosier in her right hand, and the Minster Church in her left. The darkness of her robes as abbess is relieved by the way in which the other portion of the window is treated. The features are pleasing and dignified. There is a rich hanging placed behind the Queen, which is of a ruby colour. The whole work is of high character, and is a good illustration of the care of the eminent firm which has carried out the memorial.









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IMST

Bramston, William, d.
1735.

A history of the abbey
church of Minster, Isle

ARJ-7307

**PERMANENT INSTITUTION
OF MEDIAEVAL STUDIES
88 QUEEN'S PARK
TORONTO 2, CANADA**

